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## THE CHURCH TEACHER.

THE subject of the duties of the Teacher in the Church is one of great interest. It would not be stretching the truth of the position to assume that, speaking as a whole, they are very imperfectly performed.

He who accepts of the office of a Teacher should, by consulting the revelations on the subject, and by a prayerful spirit and reflection, become familiar with its obligations. He will thus be in a position to act with intelligence.

The next step, to insure thoroughness, is to allow no ordinary circumstances to constitute an obstacle to prevent him performing the duty he has undertaken.

It is the prerogative of the Teacher to be a peacemaker, and bring about a settlement of all disagreements and disputes between the Saints under his care, and where this is impracticable to report to the Bishop, that such cases may be adjudicated in the Court which is composed of the last named official and his Counselors. It is always the better way, however, to bring about reconciliation in the earlier stage. By this procedure the important element of unity in the Church is preserved and maintained.

It is incumbent upon the same officer to see that the Saints "meet often together," or, in other words, that they attend meetings that they may be instructed in matters pertaining to the duties of their religion, partake of the sacrament, etc., that the spirit of the Gospel may not languish amongst them. In this way life is infused throughout the body religious.

One of the most important duties of the Teacher is to "see that no iniquity exists in the Church." If professing Latter-day Saints are guilty of any of the grosser offenses, it is his duty to seek diligently to discover the fact and report to the Bishop, that the offender may be dealt with according to the covenants and commandments.

It is always in order for the officer named to use an influence to bring sinners to repentance, and to take a course generally so as to prevent any of the sheep of the flock that can be saved from being lost. In this way abominations and every species of wickedness are eliminated and the purity of the Church is maintained. This duty of the Teacher of itself exhibits the importance of the office. Its duties lie at the root of matters, and without their performance the more advanced processes of the organization cannot be fully operated.

The spirit of peace must accompany the Teacher, and he must be an exemplification of the principles he should enunciate. Otherwise his operations will be practically without weight. It will be absurd and inconsistent for him to advise the people to attend meetings if he personally absents himself from the gatherings of the Saints. If he be an unobliging neighbor, quarrelsome and a backbiter, with what degree of complacency can he reprove those who are in the same way disposed? If he is unchaste, his instructions on personal purity are but boomerangs that strike back upon himself, even if he is the only one near acquainted with his departure from the law of the Lord.

The objects for which the office of Teacher was placed in the Church cannot be attained by the person who holds it going around his district in a rush, as a matter of form, to enable him to subsequently report that he has gone through his field and "found all the Saints about as usual."

Entering the houses of the Saints and talking about the weather, the crops, business and other people's affairs will not accomplish the desired end.

When the Teacher enters the house of a Latter-day Saint he should be given a cordial welcome. He may move in a humble sphere, so far as the things of the world are concerned, but he is a servant of God, and as such he should be treated.

He should be given an opportunity to perform the duties of his calling. Household work and other occupations should be temporarily suspended and the head of the house should call the members of the family together and to order, and inform the Teacher that they are ready to receive whatever instructions he may be ready to impart.

Doubtless if the duties of the

Teacher were more intelligently, thoroughly and effectively performed than they have been and are, the church would be more vigorous and healthy than it is to-day.

## MOCCASIN McBRIDE.

It is time that the municipal council of Salt Lake City corrected itself on the water question. It is evident that all the fuss and fury made by that body in regard to the insufficient supply of moisture in this region is so much lunacy and meaningless vamping. Alderman McCornick especially, who has, if we recollect aright, been particularly exercised in relation to the fate of lawn patches, has reason to look to his own sanity. The cries of the "dry benchers" which have sounded in the ears of the city authorities have no more significance than a mere wall of the west wind. (No reference to the Governor.) Although not aware of it, those misguided complainants are wet benchers. We say this much because it is due to John R. McBride.

That gentleman, when before the House Committee on Territories, unreeling his ball of yarn in opposition to the admission of Utah to Statehood, threw something wet on "Mormon" labors in the settling and redemption of this region. He spurned the idea of this valley being a dry and arid region when the Saints came here. He offered the proof. His assertion was to the effect that he was here first, and it was a most inviting spot. He went on to describe one of the constituents of attraction. Said he: "I rode through grass so tall that it wet my moccasins with dew."

People who have been here since 1847 may consider that very tall talk, but then it was very tall grass he was speaking of. It was several feet high, seeing it reached Mr. McBride's feet as he rode on his horse. Perhaps his getting his feet wet gave him a cold in his head, which has probably been affected ever since that dewy summer day.

It must be admitted that the statement is extraordinary in view of the fact that the tall grass and the dew became practically extinct so soon afterwards, and have not of their own accord subsequently put in an appearance. There is one point which Mr. McBride failed to explain in connection with the original fertility and humidity of this region—the reason why he left the heavenly spot and never re-