

and to all the servants of God. Men do not obtain place in this Church because they seek for it. If it were known that a man was ambitious to hold a certain office in the Church, that fact itself would lead to his defeat, because his desire would not be granted unto him. This is the case with the officers of this Church. But we are treated and talked about some times as though we were civil officers—men who sought to obtain place through the suffrages of their fellow citizens. We have not done this; and the rule that is applied to civil officers in that regard does not apply to us. We are not responsible to—I was going to say, to the people; yes, we are; but we are responsible to God. God chose us and nominated us, and it is for Him to straighten us out when we do wrong. He submitted us to the people, and the people accepted us. We stand in that position and relationship. I mention this because you know what has occurred from time to time, and you know the spirit that some men indulge in concerning these matters. We are doing the very best we can, and we are striving to set an example unto the people in every respect. We are striving ourselves to cultivate faith, and we are doing many things that naturally we would not do, but which God puts in our hearts to do. We are trying to be the very best of our ability to be a benefit to this people. The idea of our standing in these responsible stations and not taking upon us the responsibility that belongs to them—the very thought of such a thing makes my soul almost shrink within me. To think that God would give me a responsibility that I did not magnify; that He had placed me in a position and I would stand as an idle man, a blind watchman, a speechless shepherd, and do nothing to take care of the flock, is something so abhorrent to every feeling of my heart that I cannot bear it. When I meet the Lord, I want to meet Him without being censurable or being condemned by Him. I want to be energetic; I want to do everything in my power; I want to work night and day, with all the ability and strength God has given me, in my office and calling. President Woodruff and President Smith, I know, feel the same. President Woodruff is a marvel in this respect. Notwithstanding his advanced age, he does everything that a man can do of his strength, and far more. I frequently think, than he ought to attempt. This is the spirit that rests upon the First Presidency. We are anxious to save the people. We are anxious to have faith ourselves, and to instill this faith into the minds of the Latter-day Saints, that we may all come up to the standard necessary to enter into the presence of the Lord Jesus; that you cannot say to us that we have not been true to you, that we have not watched over you, and that we have not guarded your interests unselfishly and with an eye single to the glory of God; and that we on our part, I trust, will be able to say that you have obeyed the counsel which God has given to us, that you have listened to His voice as it has been revealed to us, and have obeyed that counsel without hesitation and without murmuring and fault-finding. We hope that this will be the case; for some day we are going to stand before the judgment seat of our Lord and Redeemer, to be judged by Him. The deeds we have done in the body, the words we have used, the influence we have exercised, we shall be judged for them all. Not one of us can escape the judgment of the Lord our God.

Therefore, my brethren and sisters, let me appeal to you this afternoon in this solemn assembly (for it is a solemn assembly), to take heed to your ways. You have been taught the

word of God. The servants of God have been in your midst and have labored with you. You all know that this is the work of God. The power of God has attended the administration of the Elders. The sick have been healed, and many mighty works have been done in your midst. You know, therefore, for yourselves that the Lord is with His people, and with us. Now, listen to the voice of His Spirit. Cultivate that Spirit, and seek for it by night and by day. If you will do this, I say to you that God will reveal Himself unto you as He has never done before; the visions of eternity will be open to you; angels will minister unto you, and the power of God will descend upon you, as individuals and as a people. I tell you this in the name of the Lord, and as His servant. This will most assuredly be the case with this people if they will do as the Lord requires at their hands, and exercise faith, and put away evil from them.

Let us labor to maintain our second estate. Oh! this is the great desire of my heart for my brethren and sisters and for myself. We were faithful in our first estate. We would not listen to Satan. Consequently we are here today, clothed with mortality. Now we are in our second estate, and Satan is again seeking to lead us astray. He wants us to listen to him. He would like to destroy us, and would fill our minds with the poison of death. On the other hand, God is entreating us by His Holy Spirit not to listen to Satan. It is said of Cain that he loved Satan more than he loved God. That is an unfortunate condition for any human being to be in. Let us love God more than we do Satan. Let us not listen to that arch-tempter and destroyer, who rebelled against God and His Chosen One, and led astray one-third of our brethren and sisters—led them down to hell, to be his angels, his agents, to do his bidding; and they are striving now to destroy the rest of the children of God and to defeat the purposes of God. Let us be faithful to our second estate. No matter how poor we may be, no matter what our circumstances may be, let us maintain our integrity and keep the commandments of God, that in the end we may come back into the presence of God, having kept our second estate and filled the mission He has given us on the earth; that He may welcome us back as we welcome our sons when they return after having filled faithful missions, only with far greater joy; that when we meet our Father in heaven and our Elder Brother Jesus, they may say to us: "You have kept your second estate; you have been faithful and true in the midst of temptation, sin and darkness; you have maintained your valor; now there is before you a never-ending career of glory and honor, and everything that is promised in all the promises of God."

God help us all to do this, with all our households, our children, and our posterity. This is my humble prayer this afternoon in your behalf, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

IN THE TURKISH MISSION

Apostle Anthon H. Lund writes the following interesting letter to the Millennial Star from Aleppo, Syria, under date of March 31, 1838:

Since I wrote you from Haifa I have had a very interesting visit with the Saints at Aintab. We succeeded in getting our Armenian brother who traveled with us landed at Alexandretta. Armenians who have left the country are not permitted to land except they have their passports in good order. I believe he will be able to do a good work among his friends at home. He seems to be a man of great faith, and, having visited Zion, he will

be able to refute the scandalous reports which have been circulated concerning our people.

You would think that in this far-off land our Elders would have the chance to present the Gospel as we believe it without having to meet the baseless fabrications which have been the favorite weapons of our opponents in northern Europe and America; but not so. Here our missionaries are met by the old stories, re-hashed and served up a la Jarman. While this is not pleasant for our brethren, still the Lord overrules it for good, and many, who otherwise would have been indifferent in regard to us, have come to us to find out the truth concerning our faith, and have become deeply interested in the Gospel.

We arrived at Aintab on the first of March. We were made quite welcome by the Saints. They had not been visited by an Elder for years, and hence they had looked anxiously forward to the time when they should have a missionary in their midst again. It was pleasant to see their happy faces and hear their hearty "Hosh geldinis," (welcome).

There were some thirty members of the Church in Aintab, who had a Priest to preside over them. No one else had been ordained to the Priesthood. We found five members who had been baptized, but on account of there being no Elder, they had not been confirmed. They had longed to receive the blessing of laying on of hands, and rejoiced that the ordinance could now be performed. It is a remarkable fact and an evidence of how the Saints are actuated by the same Spirit wherever and in whatever circumstances they are found, that this little flock had kept faithful and had a correct conception of the Gospel; and this, notwithstanding their isolation and their not being able to read any of our publications or any of our Church works. A few tracts have been printed in Turkish, and that is all they have read of our literature. They are diligent students of the Bible, and the Spirit of God has enlightened their minds to understand many of the glorious truths it contains. They had not hidden their light under a bushel, but in season, and, perhaps, sometimes out of season, they had proclaimed the principles of the Gospel.

They had not forgotten, however, the best method of preaching the Gospel, namely, by showing a good example. A minister who was railing against the sins of the Mormons, was asked by the president of the branch to point out who were guilty of what he had charged against them. He replied: "Oh, I do not mean your members here, for they are exemplary men and women; but I refer to those in Utah."

The brother who presides over the branch seems to have been raised up by the Lord specially for that place. During the trials and hardships through which the Saints have passed he has ever been staunch and true, and unwavering in his faith, and has been an inspiration to the Saints to be faithful. They had full confidence in him.

Brother Hintze was the first one to preach the Gospel in Aintab, and some of the members remembered him from that time, and many outsiders were hearty in welcoming him back.

Our room was crowded from morning till night with people who either wanted to learn our principles, or show us that we were wrong. It was an interesting sight to see them sit Turkish fashion on the carpet, sometimes as many as thirty at once, with Brother Hintze in the middle. They would ply him with questions, and listen to the answers he gave them. The Armenians are very earnest in their discussion and when this became very animated, to me, who did not understand