

sus Christ. I am a living witness to his being so set apart by direct commandment from heaven. I was in Joseph's office as his secretary at the time Hyrum anointed him; Joseph, his father, ordained and set him apart for said office and labor of love. I am a living witness to these things. With due respect, etc. Yours in bonds,

JAMES WHITEHEAD.

LAMONI, Iowa, the 19th of June, 1890.

Beloved Friend:—You do not address me as a brother, and I suppose your intention is honest in the inquiries you make, and I will give you a truthful and honest reply. I was baptized into the church of Latter Day Saints on October the 7th day, 1836, by Elder John E. Page, and was confirmed and ordained by him and James Blakeslee to the office of an elder, and immediately began to preach. The same fall, after preaching in a private house, a man came to me and inquired of me if I could tell him how that Book of Mormon came into the world. I said, No, and immediately a young man arose to his feet and began to speak in tongues, in which he described the form and shape of the Hill Cumorah. Immediately in vision I was on the hill and standing at the southeast corner of the stone box, in which the plates were deposited. The top stone was moved to the north from the northwest to the southeast corner of the box, so as to expose to me the whole inside of the box. And while I gazed with wonder at the contents the Lord commanded me to bear my testimony to the truth of the Book of Mormon so long as I lived. I did not record the time, but it was in the fall of 'thirty-six.

All I have written above transpired in Canada. We came to Illinois in thirty-eight. On the sixth day of April, in the year 1839, was the first time that I saw Joseph Smith, the Lord's seer and prophet to this generation. From that time till the death of Joseph there was nothing transpired relating to your next question. And after his death many false leaders arose striving to take his place, which caused great confusion. I ceased to preach, but did not cease to pray. One of our neighbors had dug a stock well in a remote place, and had drawn out the earth with a scraper, so that I could walk down into the well; and on passing the well I went down into it to pray. While there the Lord talked to me as a man would talk to his friend, and forbade me to follow any of them, saying that in his own time he would call Joseph, the oldest son of the Seer, to fill his father's place; and also bade me commence preaching. This that I now write transpired in the summer of 1846, and is the first indication that I had of Joseph's call to preside over the church.

In obedience to the command I commenced to preach. The scattered Saints continued to meet in conference on the sixth day of April in each year, until the year 1860. That year we met at Amboy; and on my way to conference, when about twenty miles distant from the place, the Lord said to me: When you get to Amboy you will see Joseph there, and he will take the lead of the church; and all honest souls out of all the factions of the several parties will merge into this church, and there shall never more be an entire rejection of the church. When I got to Amboy I found Joseph there, and all things transpired as had been told me. And he has continued to preside over the church till now, to the honor of God and the good of the church.

I want two months of being ninety-six years old, and this letter is my own penmanship.

JOHN LANDERS.

The testimonies of Lyman Wight, Bro. Whitehead, Father Landers, and of President Smith himself agree nicely, and together form a strong chain of evidence concerning a matter of great importance.

F. M. S.

MOVING TO ZION.

Many letters have been published in the HERALD which have been written in praise of certain parts of the country, and in which the writers hold out inducements for Saints to move to such places. This matter has been mentioned editorially, but we again desire to call attention to the fact that Saints should be very careful how they do this. As is well known to many in the church, there are many who are waiting for a chance to move into the "regions round about." These people in reading the glowing accounts some of the brethren write of certain parts of the country are liable to make choice of location which shall prove to be different than they desired. This, of course, is not so likely to happen where one follows the plan of "looking before he leaps." But if one depends entirely upon accounts written by others he is likely to be disappointed.

God has said that we should do all things in order, and he has given us some instructions concerning this very matter:

And again, inasmuch as there is land obtained, let there be workmen sent forth, of all kinds, unto this land, to labor for the saints of God. Let all these things be done in order. And let the privileges of the lands be made known, from time to time, by the bishop or agent of the church; and let the work of the gathering be not in haste, nor by flight, but let it be done as shall be counseled by the elders of the church at the conferences, according to the knowledge which they receive from time to time.—Doctrine and Covenants, sec. 58, par. 12.

See also section 117, paragraph 11.

At a joint council of the Presidency, Twelve, and Bishopric, held at Lamoni, Iowa, April 20, 1894, in accordance with instructions given in section 122, paragraph 13, among other resolutions adopted we find the following:

Resolved that all parties wishing to change their location be recommended to correspond with the bishopric for information.

The general bishopric and the bishops in the stakes of Lamoni and Independence are quite well acquainted with the lands in Zion and the regions round about, and the wisdom of the resolution adopted by the joint council is evident to any who will give it a moment's thought. Hence as has been before advised through the columns of the HERALD, persons who contemplate moving into the regions round about, or who even contemplate changing location, should communicate with the bishopric for information regarding localities to which they desire to move. If the members of the bishopric addressed are not thoroughly familiar with that part of the country about which information is desired, it will be easy for them to seek that information in places where the real situation will be learned.

We are confident that if Saints con-

templating changing location will do as the above-quoted resolution advises, good will result both to the individuals and to the church. We have now a number of bishops in various parts of the land, whose business relations with the Saints throughout their districts make them quite thoroughly acquainted with the general conditions existing in those regions and hence they are well qualified to render good advice.

Since, then, there has been instructions given whereby persons moving into the regions round about are expected to deport themselves, we deem it unwise, to say the least, for persons to write to the HERALD, or other church papers, sounding the praises of any one particular part of the country with the view to influencing Saints to settle there. Leave this matter of influencing or advising to the authorities in the church who are supposed, by reason of their office, to be in position to give unbiased and wholesome advice. We have received such letters of late which have not been printed, and it is not at all improbable that fewer of them will appear in the future than in the past.

A MONTANA EDITOR ON THE BOOK OF MORMON.

Bro. Gomer R. Wells has sent us a number of clippings from various papers of Helena, Montana, indicating that he has been active in getting our faith before the people. Most of the articles represent us quite fairly, and in some instances where there was any great misrepresentation Bro. Wells succeeded in making corrections.

One of the papers comments editorially as follows:

THE BOOK OF MORMON.

With one of the prominent lights of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in this city, interest attaches to the origin of this somewhat remarkable organization of Christian worshippers.

The elder Joseph Smith, father of the present head of the church, was regarded as a prophet by his followers, having claimed that he found in a hill in the state of New York certain plates purporting to have been a history of the people who lived on the American continent before the days of the modern Indian.

He was directed to the hiding place of these plates by an angel, and though the writing upon them was in an ancient language he was given the power to read them.

The "Book of Mormon" is the translation of these metallic relics of ye olden time, the man Mormon having been the last scribe of his race, who deposited the history of his people where it could subsequently be found. Though it has been claimed that one Solomon Spalding wrote the book, as a novel, and that Smith and a fellow conspirator stole the manuscripts, there is no substantial proof of this accusation.

The writer read the book years ago and found it to be of a high moral type, covering what purported to be the sacred history of early America, as the Old Testament covers that of ancient Asia and a part of Africa.

There is nothing of an internal character