

### J. J. Snyder's Letters.

Elder J. J. Snyder has been writing again.

He has not written much for the RETURN during the last two years, except to publish a statement which was not true, during the absence of the editor, but now he seems bent on making up for lost time. It may be remembered that he has written before. He was one of those who rushed into the Herald in 1885 to repudiate Bro. Brown because he used his own judgement about debating with a Josephite in Canada.

Later he wrote all over the country against Bro. Frisby. We have on file a mass of words from him on the subject, but we are unable to make anything out of it except a boys quarrel with Bro. F., because he would not endorse all the ideas of Elder Snyder, as being inspired. This will be found to be the sum of our offending also. Now he is using the Adams fund to spread dissension.

We didn't fall in with the idea that Elder Snyder's "books" were going to convert the world, and that the Adams fund should be drawn upon indefinitely to publish them and give them away, hence the trumped up trouble, and the attempt to dispense with the council, and try the case by self-appointed inquisitors. If the case was just, why fear the light of the council. Is it not "meek and charitable" and nice generally, to hold a secret council and stave off the regular one, and then send unproved charges broad

cast all over the world. The nerve of this affair appears when we consider the fact that the man who instigates the whole thing and is now acting as judge and general director of this affair, was under investigation of a regular committee of the last council, because he had been reported cut off from the church where he had been living. When we assured him that the committee would make a report, the trouble began, and we now have the spectacle of a man severed from the church, bringing charges against the only one having the knowledge necessary to report on his case, and undertaking to get that one cut off from the church BY LETTER, on charges that would be laughed out of any court in the land. As for the foolish (or worse) ones who have lent their aid to this scheme, we will only say, "He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him."

Two points only are brought up in all this waste of words sent over the country. 1. We are charged with loaning to our self from the fund, \$100,00. for our own use. 2. We refused to either give, or loan to Elder Snyder without proper security, several hundred dollars of the fund, to publish his books. The first is absolutely false, and the second we freely admit.

This matter cannot be settled by Elder Snyder's letters, and the sooner all parties give up that wild idea, the better for all concerned.

We suggest that a council be

held in October of this year, at Richmond or Independence Mo. By that time perhaps reason may hold sway and these and other matters can be settled decently, without so much foolish publicity.

If it is desired to utterly destroy the church, a better way could not be found than has been taken. We will serve notice right here that the Adams fund will not be used to take every body to that council.

The proposition made by one of these wise (!) ones to "use up the fund in holding councils," shows the breadth of mind of these hasty judges. Children might be excused for such wisdom (!) as is shown by those who are anxious to squander the fund in a year, but men never.

In conclusion, we are ready to answer all proper questions at a proper time and place, but we shall take proper steps to prevent Elder Snyder or any one else from using up the Adams fund until these things are settled, and if necessary to appeal to the court for protection against such outrageous attacks, we shall certainly do so.

Elder Snyder has not published all the letters he has received, and probably will not, as some of them hold a faithful glass for him to look into.

We favor sending to Bro. Brown from the fund, enough to bring him and his wife back home if they desire to come. Let us hear from the church upon this matter, also on the question of a council next October.

WE commend the letter from Bro. Dyke in this number, to the careful attention of those who are really in earnest in desiring to see the "kingdom of heaven" upon the earth. It cannot be built by pious protestations, but will take the active operation of those laws which will produce no poor in the land. A profession which will not reach that far is merely a sham.

Where do you stand.

Friday, April 9, 1897. Various things have hindered us from finishing this number until now, and we are glad it is so, for we wish our friends to know that elders Snyder, Clark and Page, who last fall refused to take part in the regular council on the ground that they feared only a few would be present, have decided to hold a council by themselves at Independence Mo. tomorrow, April 10th, to dispose of the case (!) against the editor, i. e. elder Snyder's foolish and desperate attack, made to divert attention from his own case, and get the Adams fund to squander on his "inspired" writings.

We received the notice yesterday, and to get there in time would have to take the train today which was out of the question.

When such indecent haste is shown there is something wrong.

Let us have a properly called and advertised council, and settle all these matters. We cannot recognize such a one sided affair as this.

May wiser counsel and a better spirit prevail.