

September 17, 1928

President Judger Clawson,
Of the Council of the Twelve.

Dear Brother:

I note that in a letter signed by you under date of November 11, 1927, that the statement was made with reference to courses of study for the quorums of the Melchizedek Priesthood, that "The council of the twelve, the First Council of Seventy, and the Presiding Bishopric will give consideration of the texts and courses projected from time to time for these quorums. For the course of study for the quorums during 1928-29 the First Council have had nothing concerning any plans for courses of study, for this year and naturally we feel anxious as to what course of study you will propose for these quorums. In the meantime many inquiries come to the office of the First Council concerning course of study for this year and we can make no answer as to what is intended for them as outlines for study. Of course, we are deeply interested in our 185 quorums of seventy throughout the church and would like to see them provided with a suitable course to prepare them for their work in the ministry. In view of the fact that we have heard nothing from the council, of the Twelve on what their plans are, I beg leave, with the approval of the members of the First Council who are within reach, to submit to you and to your council a book upon which I have been working definitely for now over one year, and I might say for many years, and which I designed at the commencement of it as a course of study for our seventies quorums, and of course if suitable for them it may be equally suitable for the High Priests and Elders. The book in volume of matter is contains—between five and six hundred pages, more nearly six hundred than five hundred—therefore would be ample in quantity of matter for more than one year, perhaps even two or three years as a text book.

The title of the work is to be: The Truth, The Way, the Life, An Elementary Treatise on Theology. I hope to incorporate within its pages a full harvest of all that I have thought, and felt and written through the nearly fifty years of my ministry, that is, on the theme of the title. The present status of the work is that I have the whole subject covered, making in all 53 chapters, 43 chapters of which could not be placed in the hands of the printer and the remaining chapters will be re-written and completed for the printer by the 10th or 15th of October, and I am informed by the Desert News Book Printing Department that they could produce such a work once the manuscript is in their hands in the course of four or five weeks, so that it will be possible to issue this book from the press by the middle of November if it is thought desirable to have it printed for the use herein proposed.

I spent the six months vacation accorded to me last summer by the First Presidency in dictating the rough draft of this book, and the last few months have been revising and directing the rewriting of it for use by the printer, until it is now brought to the status of preparation described above.

About one-half of the book is taken up with the first division of the subject: The Truth, and occupies 28 chapters of the 53. This part of the work deals with great fundamentals of the existence of things, what we know about the

