

One little incident may help to illustrate the attitude toward family; an attitude not uncommon:

One day an elderly neighbor told me that his experience of rearing a large family had been very disappointing. He said in effect, "I slaved (worked very hard) to raise our children and as soon as they became of an age when they might have returned something by way of work or financial help, they took off on their own." He was up-set and serious about this.

Today we are advised to follow the advice of the leaders of the Church but the programming and suggested emphasis is based around the family. This change of attitude toward one's children high-lights the attitude and thinking of seventy or eighty or a hundred years ago. I very well remember when the Church and the Church activities were almost exclusively adult oriented.

In view of this status quo it was not surprising that mother and her older boys were expected to, and did exert themselves, to provide an income for the head of the family. This was true of father's other family and it must have been true of many other families.

Before I come to the point of the very circumstance to which I am leading, let me say again that mother married her husband because of what he was and for the heritage he could give her children, and in this as well as almost all of her judgments, she was not disappointed. I feel quite certain that in father's life there was never a time, nor an event, in which he was not one hundred percent loyal to his beliefs which were the teachings of the Church. He was active in the Church and in civic affairs. He was respected, even by those who differed with his opinions.

I remember an occasion when I needed some financial credit. A business man who had never seen me before asked me who I was and I replied that I was a son of Edward B. Clark. "In that event," he said, "your credit is unlimited." He served many years in a Stake Presidency. He became an active Patriarch, as his father had been. He was for many years an active Temple worker acquiring a record for number of sealings which probably still stands. Indeed, he was the type of man mother had expected him to be.

So much for the background of the circumstance I have been leading toward. The circumstance was real enough and must have caused mother an untold amount of stress and heartbreak.

We, as children, were not aware that we were poor while we were growing up, but as we look back the difficulties of those days seem to glare at us almost unkindly. It was not poor management that kept us poor. The small ranch produced well, but as I