June 22, 1971

Dear Grandson,

There is no end of advice that a person could give you with the hope that it would help you throughout your growing-up years, but I will attempt to give you just a little that I hope will be useful.

It seems to me that a person should constantly look back and look around and look forward. Let me elaborate on this a little. We all have received an inheritance from our forebearers, and I'm certain that you have some good ones, particularly your own parents, Sherlene and Daniel, whom I know well. There will be times in your life when you think that your mother and father are unreasonable and that they may not know as much as you; but this is something that everyone experiences in growing-up, and you must place full confidence and faith in your parents.

You have many other worthy progenitors who have done much to bring you the heritage--particularly the gospel--that you enjoy, and that you will find as you go through life, will be the most important influence in bringing happiness to you and to those that you love.

In looking back, you will also see persons who were not your progenitors, but who also have brought many blessings to you. Lord Macauley said: "A people that take no pride in the achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote descendants." Rambler said: "He that wishes to be counted among the benefactors of posterity must add, by his own toil, to the acquisitions of his ancestors." I have learned this lesson myself in my chosen field of science. It would be impossible

for me or for anyone to start from the beginning and learn Chemistry; but by reading books and studying, I have learned in a relatively short time that which has taken thousands of previous scientists thousands of years to learn. No one of us could live long enough to do anything entirely on our own. We must constantly take from the past. We play and sing Handel's Messiah, but did we write the music? Did we bring forth the Book of Mormon? Did we cross the plains? Did we fight at Valley Forge? Did we build the Salt Lake Temple? Did we create ourselves or cause ourselves to be born?

As we look around at the time called today, we will also see that there are many living persons from whom we receive benefits and blessings. We ride in cars and planes, but did we make them? We eat bread and meat and drink milk, but did we produce them? We watch and enjoy T. V., but did we invent it? Well, because of our daily blessings that we receive at the hand of our living fellow men, and at the hand of those who have gone before, it becomes apparent that we have a responsibility to our past and present fellowmen that we cannot afford to neglect.

The words gratitude/ingratitude have relevance to what I have been saying. There are a number of quotes from the writings of Shakespeare that speak to this point: "Ingratitude, thou marble-hearted fiend! More hideous when thou showest thee in a child than the sea monster." "How sharper than a serpents tooth it is to have a thankless child." "I hate ingratitude more in a man than lying, vainness, babbling-drunkeness, or any taint of vice whose strong corruption inhabits our frail blood." "Blow blow thou winter wind, thou art not so unkind as man's ingratitude." "Freeze, freeze,

thou bitter sky, thigh bite is not so nigh as benefits forgot."

In looking forward, you will become aware of your responsibility to those who follow. You must, in our day and age make advance preparation for that which lies ahead. And that means education--both secular and spiritual. Our Father in Heaven has given each of us a body and a spirit which together have the capability of becoming an extremely sensitive, highly-skilled instrument, capable of doing all sorts of wonderful and useful things. The training of this marvelous soul is primarily your own responsibility as you reach the teenage years. Your own self-discipline will be a major factor in this. Try to recognize your natural abilities and interests at an early age and begin to train and improve yourself along the lines of this interest and set your goals to correspond with these abilities and interests so that you will not waste a lot of time along life's path. The spiritual part of you, just as much as the physical, requires discipline and training. As a matter of fact, one cannot really separate the physical and the spiritual, and they should be trained together. Many people make the mistake of thinking that they will train themselves for life's everyday temporal work, and after they have completed this training go back and pick up the spiritual. This is dangerous, unsound thinking. I have such a natural interest in science that I have sometimes found it difficult to spend the time with the scriptures and with other aspects of the gospel that I really should and because of this, I carry in my wallet a quotation from a former apostle, John A. Widtsoe. It goes like this: "It is a paradox that men will gladly devote time every day for many years to learn a science or art; yet will expect to win a

knowledge of the gospel which comprehends all sciences and arts, through perfunctory glances at books or occasional listening to sermons. The gospel should be studied more intensively than any school or college subject. They who pass opinion on the gospel without having given it intimate and careful study are not lovers of the truth, and their opinions are worthless." Grandson, develop your testimony at an early age and do not neglect the Gospel of Jesus Christ in your studies.

Within the Church we have an opportunity that is particularly unique with regard to our predecessors. An ordinary person might find it possible to feel gratitude in his heart for the heritage left to him by those who have gone before, but he has no way to make this directly known. A Latter-day-Saint, however, through the genealogy program, can perform ordinance work for the dead and express by thus doing, his gratitude for his heritage in a very personal and direct way. Of course, in order to do such ordinance work, he will have to spend some time seeking out the genealogies of his progenitors.

The day will come when you will have a very personal and challenging responsibility to those who will follow, and that will come when you have children of your own. You cannot wait until that time, however, to prepare for those who follow. You must, while you are young, develop the traits, habits, and testimony that will equip you to effectively train and develop the talents and abilities of your children. Also, of course, within the Church, you will be called upon to teach others, and you will always be teaching others by the personal example that you set.

To summarize, let me end as I started: it is important to con-

tinuously be aware of that which has gone before, of that which is currently about, and of that which is yet to come. Now that's a large order, but the Lord has commanded us to do it. As members of the Church we have a special advantage and privilege which we should not be egotistical about, but which nonetheless is of utmost importance. We have living prophets to interpret the past and literally foresee the future and on that basis help us in living now. If you are properly aware and appreciative of this situation, you will be well equipped to make life's proper decisions.

It might be well for me to state, because I have had a successful life in the field of science, that I have not had any conflict whatever between the principles of the gospel and the things that I have come to know in the fields that we call "science."

I would like you to know, too, grandson, that I have a strong and fervant testimony of the gospel, and I am greatly appreciative to my own parents and to progenitors before them who are responsible for my being brought into the Church and being taught correct principles. Everything that I cherish and consider of true value, I have obtained because of my membership in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day-Saints.

Daniel, I met you for the first time today and although you are only five months old, it is obvious that you are a strong, intelligent, alert offspring of our Heavenly Father and are still blessed with the sweet innocense of having just left His presence. There are certain qualities of childhood that even adults should possess. Jesus said except we become as little children, we can in nowise enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Almost everyone as he passes through the teenage years

is confronted with moral problems--specifically sexual immorality, and I fully expect you to have the ability to overcome these serious temptations and maintain the innocense of youth in this respect. There are other qualities of your childhood that you should retain, including faith, obedience, teachability and wonder. These qualities should not be cast aside as adulthood approaches. I am certain that you have within you the capabilities to become anything that you are willing to work for, and I call you to accept this challenge in the spirit of our Lord and Saviour who said, "Come, follow me for my yoke is easy and my burden is light." In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

H. Tracy Hall