

heat and fastened on his hand. Well, he certainly picked up a serpent, didn't he. And did it kill him? And when the Barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, <sup>No doubt</sup> ~~knowing~~ that this man is a murderer, whom tho he has ~~xxx~~ escaped the ...11 $\frac{1}{2}$ .., yet vengeance suffereth not to live. And he shook off the beast into the fire, and felt no harm, ~~howbeit~~ howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead, but after they had looked a great while and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a ~~xxx~~ god. Here is a prediction made  $\gamma$  in the last part of Mark, and it is fulfilled in the last ~~xxx~~ chapter of Acts. Well, then, who is to say it is not true, and ....12... Maybe it wasn't in the original  $\gamma$  or Mark, but something was there, and maybe this was, and certainly is not untrue, because ~~ix~~ it is fulfilled in Acts. Well, of course, there are those who take it in a different way. I was speaking to the students here a few minutes ago, and I remarked that I had not heard a sermon on this text, and he said, I have. He said I went into a church one time, and I heard a man preach a very sincere sermon on this text, and after he finished his sermon he took out a great big rattlesnake and wrapped it around his arm....12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ...., and he wrapped it around his arm. Well, now is this verse a command to us to take up serpents, and wrap them around our arms and prove that they will not hurt us? Is that the sort of thing that God wants us to do to spread the Gospel. Well, nobody can deny that it may be possible that on some occasion, the Lord may will that something similar in general nature to that should be done. Look what Elijah did. Put some rocks out here, and put some meat on them, and poured water all over it, and prayed the Lord to send down fire from heaven, and set fire to this to prove that He was God. That was a hundred times more difficult than holding a rattlesnake in your arm, or even having the rattlesnake bit you, and recover, because many a person has recovered from a rattlesnake bite. But I never knew anybody who prayed to the Lord and He sent fire down from heaven, and consumed something, particularly after  $\gamma$  it had been ~~xxx~~ thoroughly wet, and that's what Elijah prayed, in order to prove that God was indeed the powerful