

The Housekeepers' Soliloquy.

BY MRS. P. D. GAGE.

I wish I had a dozen pairs
Of hands, this very minute;
I'd soon put all the things to right—
The very deuce is in it.

Here's a big washing to be done—
One pair of hands to do it—
Sheets, shirts and stocks, coats and pants,
How shall I e'er get through it?

Dinner to get for six or more—
No loaf left o'er from Sunday;
And baby cross as he can live—
He's always so on Monday.

And there's the cream 'tis getting sour,
And must forthwith be churning;
And here's Bob, wants a button on—
Which way shall I be turning?

'Tis time the meat was in the pot,
The bread was worked for baking,
The clothes were taken from the boll—
O dear! the baby's waking.

Hush, baby, dear! there, hush—sh—sh?
I wish he'd sleep a little,
Till I could run and get some wood,
To hurry up that kettle.

Oh dear! oh dear! if P— comes home,
And finds things in this bother,
He'll just begin and tell me all
About his tidy mother.

How nice her kitchen used to be—
Her dinner always ready
Exactly when the noon bell rang—
Hush, hush! dear little Freddy!

And then will come some hasty word,
Right out before I'm thinking—
They say that hasty words from wives
Set sober men to drinking.

Now isn't that a great idea,
That men should take to sinning,
Because a weary, half sick wife,
Can't always smile so winning!

When I was young I used to earn
My living without trouble—
Had clothes and money, too,
And hours of leisure double.

I never dreamed of such a fate,
When I, a lass! was courted—
Wife, mother, seamstress, cook, house-keeper,
chambermaid, laundress, dairy-woman and
scrub generally, doing the work of six,
For the sake of being supported!

DISCOURSE

ON THE POWER OF THE PRIESTHOOD, GOVERNMENT OF NATIONS, &c. BY ELDER J. V. VERNON, SUNDAY MORNING, TABERNACLE, MARCH 16, 1866.

REPORTED BY J. V. LONG.

My brethren, I have been called upon by the authorities this morning, to address a few words to you, and, in doing so, I rejoice exceedingly in the amplitude of that provision which is made in the economy of grace, for the assistance of the saints in the discharge of their sacred and varied duties.

And this morning I do earnestly desire a participation in that very necessary aid which has been guaranteed to the church by the veracity of the Son of God, I mean the gifts of the Holy Ghost, for I have lived just long enough in the world to learn the truth of that scripture which saith, "without him nothing is wise or good or strong."

I do therefore solicit an interest in your prayers, let your silent invocations ascend to heaven in my behalf, that I may be prompted and assisted by the spirit of truth, to make such communications as shall tend to our mutual edification and benefit.

My brethren, my heart inclines this morning to the simple bearing of testimony, it will be simple and artless, but nevertheless true, verily true, and truth, after all, is the brightest gem of the orator's speech; let me then testify unto you of things which I have seen, and known, and experienced.

With the Prophet Joseph, I had no acquaintance, he had been murdered at Carthage and removed to a higher sphere, before I knew there were such people on the earth as Latter-Day Saints.

The gospel which I embraced was preached by Elders who had received their commission under the administration of the Prophet Brigham, and all the light and truth and power and evidence which I have received in this church, has been given under the administration of the present President, therefore of this Presidency I can bear testimony.

But perhaps the logic of my testimony (if taken at this stage of it) would be to the effect, that whether Joseph was a Prophet or not, Brigham is most assuredly one, and his administration is of God.

Such a statement however would amount to just nothing; in point of fact no such invidious distinction can be made; the present administration is simply and purely a continuation of the former; and if Brigham be true, then Joseph was necessarily true; and if Joseph were false, Brigham is inevitably so; for according to his own statement, his commission is 'to lead this people in that very track which Joseph marked out.'

But to resume the subject, I have the honor to say, that I am personally acquainted with the present authorities; Prest. Young I know well, have had to do with him in the affairs of life, both public and private, have conversed with him, eaten at the same table with him, heard his public orations on matters sacred, civil and political, and I know his real character.

Of Prest. Heber, I can say precisely the same things; and Prest. Jedediah, I know also; I have traveled more than a thousand miles with him, under circumstances which cannot fail to develop a man's real character.

The result of this personal intimacy is, that I can bear testimony, that they are gentlemen in the highest and purest sense of the word; they are men of intelligence, probity and honor; men who never dishonor the trust reposed in them; men who are true to their nation, their country and their God; and true to all those

over whom the Holy Ghost hath made them overseers and rulers.

But even this testimony does not go very far; for in the Kingdom for God there are many gentlemen whom I know to be such; men whose fidelity and veracity cannot be impeached; men who would sooner sacrifice their lives than tarnish their sacred honor.

Therefore to say thus and so respecting the Presidency, is only to say, they are like their brethren who keep the commandments of God.

But let me now give the details of a few simple facts just as they occurred. I well remember having been at the April conference of 1854. That conference was numerously attended; so much so, that this spacious Tabernacle could not contain much more than half of the congregation; the weather being favorable, it was determined to adjourn to the Bowery at the north end of this building. While the people were orderly and gradually moving along thro' the northern doors, Prest. Heber came along after me; and when in close proximity, he placed his two hands upon my two shoulders and pressed very affectionately; he also said something of a pleasing nature, which I could not catch in consequence of an instantaneous shock (some-what similar to the effect produced by a galvanic battery) which followed the pressure of his hands.

For a moment I was paralyzed and unconscious; but when consciousness returned a new world opened to my view, a change took place in my affairs and destiny.

The earth was fair and beautiful, the sun was magnificent, the moon was majestic, the twinkling stars which bespangle the nocturnal sky were more brilliant than ever, and the air was balmy as paradise.

Providence was propitious, every thing seemed to favor me, my enemies became few and far between, friends numerous and powerful, appeared in every direction, and everything I put my hand to prospered; and in fact every thing connected with my whole being, conspired to make my existence happy and blessed, and I rejoiced with a joy unspeakable and full of glory.

Furthermore, the heavens were opened, and I began to receive those visions and revelations which had been promised to me by the mouth of Bishop Hengland, in the ordinance of confirmation, on the day that I was baptized in Zion.

By these heavenly communications my heart was made glad from time to time, till an incident occurred, which for a short moment appeared adverse, but the sequel showed it was only a blessing in disguise.

Whilst engaged in office business one evening, I experienced a mysterious attack which shortly took away all consciousness. Bishop Smoot took me in his arms, and arrested the complaint by the power of the priesthood, or mortality might have ensued before morning, but I was preserved alive; and I cannot help acknowledging the vigilant kindness of Bishop Smoot and Mrs. Smoot, and counselor Henry Wilde, who watched over me with the tenderest care during the night.

The next morning, President Young came to the works, enquired into the case, and said, I know what ails him, take him to the creek, place a sieve over his head, and pour water upon him, in the manner of a shower bath; then wrap him in blankets and put him to bed, he'll soon be better.

This was all done just as he had said, and lo when I awoke I was better; equilibrium was restored, I could stand, walk, talk, eat and sleep, and rejoice before the Lord.

But one evil still remained unremoved; it was double vision and a constant flickering in the eyes; everything I saw was double and in constant motion; although in other respects I was perfectly restored, yet in this respect I was suffering greatly; it was impossible to read or write or do anything else that required specific sight; everything was double, and everything was dancing.

One day, however, the superintendent sent me to the Governor's Office, with a message, which I have forgotten now. When I entered the office, the President immediately arose from his chair, and caused me to be seated in it; and seating himself upon a table contiguous to where I sat, he took my right hand and held it in his two hands, resting them upon his knee; he looked me straight in the face, and such a look of sympathy and benignity I never saw before, it affected my heart at the time, and I cannot forget it now.

He said, 'do you know what ails you?' Why, Bishop Smoot thought it was paralytic. 'No,' replied the President, 'it was not paralytic, it was apoplectic.' Well, really I had some presentiment that it would be apoplexy, and I told Bishop Smoot, if I became insensible, to bleed me in the arm.

'It was good for you,' said the President, 'that he did not bleed you in the arm; I know the faculty of physicians of the old school, all prescribe bleeding for apoplexy, and they all die of the third attack, but I have had three attacks and am alive yet, because they are not allowed to bleed me.'

During this conversation he put his hand to my face and looked steadfastly at my eyes, as if to see what ailed them; but when Prest. Young's hand touched my forehead, the double vision ceased in a moment; I was cured in the twinkling of an eye.

There was no more double vision after that; no more confusion; the sight was clear and steady; the optical nerve perfectly restored; I could apply myself to the duties of the desk night or day, and the eyes not grow weary.

Returning from the office, my heart rejoiced

exceedingly when I could discern every single object quite distinctly, with a clear and steady sight, I then began to realize the feeling and faith of that woman of whom the Evangelist wrote.

The lady had been sick a long time; the complaint had baffled the physicians' skill, and exhausted her own means. She lay on her couch a helpless and hopeless sufferer, till she heard of Jesus; she then got it into heart and into her nerves too, if she could only see him she should be cured in a moment.

She was conveyed into his presence, and eagerly touched the hem of his garment, and that moment was made every wit whole; Jesus said, Who toucheth me? his friends replied, Seest thou not how the crowd press thee, why sayest thou who toucheth me; Jesus said nay, but some one hath touched me, for I feel that virtue has gone out of me; and the woman came before him, and told the whole truth; she had said in her heart, if I may but touch the hem of his garment I shall be healed.

Now I realize these things more fully, seeing mine was in some respect, a parallel case—Ever since I came into the valley, I had felt a desire to have a blessing from the President.

If I could only get a blessing at his hands, I should be happy under all circumstances, and thoroughly furnished for every good word and work. Sometimes I reproved myself, and said have you not had a Patriarchal Blessing, and have not Bishops and Elders also, laid their hands upon your head, and in the Lord's name pronounced blessing upon blessing, both great and glorious for you.

And besides, the very best blessings that you can ask or think of, and the very blessings the Father hath to bestow, are all yea and amen to them that walk uprightly. Only do right, and the blessings are all yours; therefore trouble not the President; he has already as much business on hand as would keep ten ordinary men employed from day to day, and very little augments the mass.

By reasoning thus, I dissuaded myself from making the application; nevertheless the desire was still there; nothing could dislodge it, I always carried it in my heart; and I thought a blessing from brother Brigham would be all the world to me.

And now (thanks and praise be to Him who reads the desires of the heart) I have received a blessing and a testimony and a gift all at the same time.

It was perfectly unintentional on the part of the President; he knew no more of my case when I sat beside him, than Jesus knew of the woman's case when she touched the hem of his garment and was cured.

But so it was, when his hand touched my forehead, the disordered vision was sent to the four winds of heaven; the gift of healing and the spirit of prophecy were given to me at the same time, and have remained with me ever since; and I continue to realize to this very day, that there is virtue in the living Prophet of the living God; and that virtue passed from the Prophet Brigham even unto me.

Now, my brethren, let me come to visions and revelations from the Lord. About six months after this spontaneous cure of double vision, the works were in full operation; the men were on duty all night, and I was with them till about midnight, when I retired to rest in an upper room; and remembering that he who watcheth Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps, I committed myself to his guardian care, and lay down to sleep. In a moment or two I became wrapt up in a heavenly vision.

I saw the Prophet Joseph; I did not ask him who he was nor whence he came, for I knew who he was and acted accordingly. He stood by the side of an august personage, enshrined in a cloud of glory.

The features of the sublime personage could not be distinctly seen, by reason of the ineffable light that enshrouded him. I did not ask who it was; the spirit which told me that the man with whom I conversed, was none other than Joseph the Prophet, also told me who sat enthroned in unapproachable sublimity and glory; and I knew who it was quite well, but spake not a word concerning it.

While conversing with the Prophet, he gave me a very significant sign, and looking each other steadily in the face, I said (alluding to the sign) do you mean that he, with a graceful motion of the head, replied yes, and then repeated the same sign, still more emphatically.

I then said, I shall not forget this, for a thousand years to come. At that moment the whole volume of nature was spread open before me; I saw it all—understood it all, for the world was full of light. Things which for ages had been concealed in the deepest mystery became perfectly simple and easy to understand, I actually thought of Sir Isaac Newton and the Poet who said:—

'Nature and all her works lay hid in night—
God said, let Newton be, and all was light.'

This eulogium however was not true; many things have been discovered since Sir Isaac's day, and many more yet remain to be discovered. It was poetic flattery, or to say the best of it, a poetic compliment to that great astronomer.

But not so in the vision; astronomy, philosophy, chemistry, mathematics, and all that worldly science ever knew, fell far short of the revelations shown unto me at that sacred moment. There was not a dark or intricate speck left in the whole creation of God. And not only so, but the mysteries of Godliness were unveiled; things pertaining to the priesthood of the son of God; the exaltation of the saints, and the future purposes of the Almighty were made so plain that I actually smiled to think what bunglers we had been in our conjectures respecting them.

After the Prophet ceased to talk with me, the ineffable glory began to move towards a magnificent structure which had been prepared to receive it, and Joseph walked along side with measured step; he walked like a man, with the locomotion of a man; but when the glory advanced there was no locomotion to be seen, it moved en masse like a cloud in the heavens. I ran before the Prophet and entered the spacious hall; it was inconceivably large and superbly grand, it was galleried on all sides round with a flat area in the centre; at the north end were seated the Presidency and the Twelve Apostles, and when I entered elder Taylor was addressing the Presidency about the adaptation of the house to the occasion, and feared it would be too small for the assembly. President Heber left the stand and came to me to give me a little book, which I did not read but put in my bosom. I said brother Heber, shall I have to testify of the things which I have seen and witnessed this day? he replied: nothing is given in vain, where much is given much is required, take care of the book in your bosom. He then returned to his seat, the saints assembled, I returned to consciousness and found myself bathed in tears.

How matters went on in that stately edifice afterwards I know not, but one thing I know; about seven months afterwards I was honored with an invitation to appear in the House of the Lord; and while in the House of the Lord, holy men of God made known unto me the self same thing that the Prophet Joseph showed me in the vision; I recognized it the instant I saw it and I said to one who stood near me, I know all about it, I have seen it before. Yes, it was the very identical thing, nothing added to it, nothing taken from it, neither was it in the slightest degree altered, but just exactly as the Prophet revealed it to me in the vision, so was it shown to me in the House of the Lord.

My brethren these things strengthen my faith, and my heart rejoices in the manifold goodness of my heavenly Father who hath blessed me all my life long, and hath brought me hither through ten thousand dangers seen and unseen, and hath given me a name and place amongst his people in these last days.

Now I wonder what the would-be wise men of this world would say if I were to tell them that these things are a testimony unto me that this work is of God. Perhaps they would call me an enthusiast, a superstitious infatuated old fogey, or use some other opprobrious epithet of that nature. Well, be it so, wisdom is justified of her children after all, and I have vanity enough to think, and boldness enough to affirm that I am as capable of judging for myself in matters of this nature as any man in the gentile world or out of it.

Ever since I first heard the gospel I knew it was true, and all the reason, logic, metaphysics, and reticination that I could bring to bear upon it only concurred in the demonstration, that this work is the Lord's doings, and it is marvelous in our eyes. But the Lord hath been graciously pleased to give me this additional testimony to encourage my heart and cause me to rejoice before him in love, which I do this day in the congregation of his people. And now brethren hear ye my testimony, it is this:—There is healing power enough in the Presidency of this church to heal an afflicted world! The power is there! I know it! I have touched the hem of the garment! Yes, and I will yet add another testimony, it is this:—There is power enough, wisdom enough, administration enough, and statesmanship enough in the Presidency of this church to govern the world! This also I know and have verily seen, principles of government adapted to a nation of any magnitude, yet even commensurate with a world.

But in bearing these testimonies, I anticipate certain interrogatories; one may ask, if such be the plenitude of healing power in the Presidency, why is it not more generally transferred throughout the community? In answer to this, let me suggest to those who file the Desert News, now the last volume is out, to get it bound, and then read the discourses which have been delivered in the Tabernacle during the last year, during the last two years, during the last three years if you please, and there you will find the reason amply set forth. But if you have not sufficient control of your own mind to make it bend to a perusal of such voluminous matter, and would rather hear than read, then let me exhort you to a punctual and constant attendance at this place, and listen to every word of every discourse that may be delivered from time to time in this house, and mark well every little word, for truth generally comes *multum in parvo*.

If you be blessed with the hearing ear, and the understanding mind, the reason will soon be apparent, and you shall not be ignorant of Satan's devices. But if you have not the patience to wait the result of a long course of hearing. Then permit me to say, that when Jesus was on the earth, he said to his disciples, 'if ye love me, keep my commandments.' Although these words were addressed to the saints in Palestine 1800 years ago, still the voice of Jesus to this very people and to this very day is, if ye love me keep my commandments, and behold my commandments are given unto you by my servant Joseph and by my servant Brigham; see that ye touch not mine anointed, and do my Prophets no harm.

My brethren, if the love of God be shed abroad in our heart by the holy Ghost given unto us, then we shall love his vice gerent and legal representative on the earth. And the strongest and noblest proof we can give of our fealty, loyalty, and attachment, to the persons and government of the Presidency, is the plain matter of fact proof of habitual obedience. If we through the spirit keep the holy commandments given unto us by the Prophets of the Lord, then shall we honor the priesthood we have received; then shall we have the spirit of unity and the bond of peace; then shall the spirit of the gospel in its glorious fullness descend upon us in all its plenitude; then shall the gift of healing and all the gifts be diffused through every ramification of the church; then shall our light go forth as brightness, and our salvation as a lamp that burneth;