

# THE DESERT WEEKLY

PIONEER PUBLICATION

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION.

ESTABLISHED

TRUTH AND LIBERTY

JUNE, 1850.

NO. 13. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1892. VOL. XLIV.

## TRUE GREATNESS.

The rule has been to count him best  
Who wrote his name above the rest,  
And not inquire with too much care  
By just what means he wrote it there;  
Nor yet, what better men were curst,  
That he might seem to stand the first;  
For all the powers of the night  
Proclaim the adage, "Might makes Right."

But, oh, how different is the thought  
Which Christ our Lord both lived and taught,  
That he who aims to be the best  
Must write his name beneath the rest,  
And bending to the mighty weight,  
Must lift them to a better state,  
For souls aglow with heavenly light  
Proves by their lives that Might makes Right..

—A. A. Bennett.

## PRIESTHOOD, AND THE RIGHT OF SUCCESSION.

A Lecture by Elder B. H. Roberts, delivered in the Assembly Hall, Salt Lake City, Utah, February 23rd, 1892, at 7:30 p. m., under the auspices of the Y. M. M. F. Association of the Salt Lake Stake.

[REPORTED BY J. M. WHITAKER.]

There is only one thing I regret connected with the appointment of this evening, that is, a great many, and perhaps all, of the Mutual Improvement Associations in this city have discontinued their regular meetings for the purpose of being present at this meeting; but I trust the importance of the subject to be considered will, in part at least, reward us for that rather extraordinary proceeding.

The subject I propose dealing with this evening is:

"THE PRIESTHOOD AND THE RIGHT OF SUCCESSION."

To stand before an audience of this proportion is of itself sufficient to make one's heart quake. To undertake, before such an audience, to deal with a subject so weighty in its importance certainly is calculated to add to the perplexity of a speaker, and I do not know that at any time in my life I have felt more in need of the assistance of our Father in Heaven and His good Spirit than I do now.

I have learned, and that by a rather sad experience, the truth of what Paul a long time ago declared, that is: that no man knoweth the things of

God but by the Spirit of God. Under the influence of that spirit we may learn, in part, something pertaining to the things of God. Without it, we may despair to arrive at any considerable knowledge in relation to those things.

Therefore, I earnestly ask you to remember the petition that was offered by Brother Geddes in behalf of us all, that the Lord would deign to meet with us upon this occasion, and by the outpouring of His Holy Spirit enable us to learn something pertaining to this great subject.

With these remarks we now turn our attention to the subject under consideration. In the statement of the subject we are first confronted with the question: "What is Priesthood?" The greater portion of this congregation are familiar with the definition the Latter-day Saints have learned to give that word. It is "Power which God delegates to man by which man is made the agent of God; by which he may by and in the name of God act for Him." That is Priesthood, as we understand it.

For the benefit of the younger brethren and sisters who may not grasp the full import of these words without illustration, I offer the following: There is such a thing known among men as power of attorney. It is this: a man possesses property in this city, perhaps real estate, perhaps a merchandising establishment,—bonds, stocks of various kinds; but he does not reside here—his home is at a distance, and he is not able to give his personal attention to his business interests in this location; he therefore selects some man in whom he has confidence, in whose business integrity he places great reliance, and he says to him: I wish you to become my agent, to act for me, to take possession of this property, to manipulate it with a view to increasing my wealth. And in order that the proceedings may be lawful, and that the people may have confidence in your transactions, we will go to a notary public and draw up an instrument stating that I give to you this authority, that you shall act for me, and it shall be signed, and the seal of the court shall be placed upon it. That is done, and the agent, equipped with this power of attorney, goes into business circles; he buys, he sells, he makes contracts, signs them, disposes of property, and purchases other property; he does whatever his judg-

ment dictates as being wise and profitable; and by whatsoever he does, so long as he continues within the lines marked out in this power of attorney, the principal is bound. He is compelled in law to respect the acts of his agent; and whatsoever he shall do, when acting under the law, is just as good and valid as if the owner of the property himself were performing the transactions. We call that power of attorney.

Priesthood is something like that. It is power which God gives to men by which they are made His agents; and when operating in the same way that this agent we have been speaking of does, they do whatever they are appointed to do by the Lord Almighty; and so long as they act in accordance with the law of the Gospel, so long as they act in harmony with the prescribed powers of the Priesthood, whatsoever they shall do is just as binding and valid as if the Lord Almighty, from whom they receive or derive their authority, had performed the act Himself.

If a man clothed upon with the Holy Priesthood goes among the nations of the earth and preaches the Gospel and induces men to repent of their sins, and then takes them down into the waters of baptism and buries them in the likeness of Christ's birth, and brings them up in the likeness of Christ's resurrection—thus baptizing them for the remission of their sins—that is just as well as if the Lord Jesus Christ Himself administered the ordinance. Or, if in a further pursuance of their duty, they shall lay their hands upon the heads of those they have baptized, and confirm them members of the Church of Christ, and say "Receive ye the Holy Ghost," that is just as valid as if the Lord Himself had performed that ordinance.

Hence it comes that we have it written in the Scripture that: "Whoso receiveth you"—Messiah, speaking of the servants of God—"receiveth me, and he that rejecteth you rejecteth me, and Him that sent me." Furthermore we have it recorded in modern revelation, that "Whether by mine own voice, or the voice of my servants, it is the same." From this you will see how great the power of the Priesthood is; the power from God to act in His name for the salvation of the children of men—such is Priesthood.

I scarcely need to dwell upon the greatness of this power, upon its im-