

offices when necessary, implies the necessity on his part of being well instructed in the duties of those offices, to be an efficient member of Priesthood at all times and in any of the places named. He should comprehend fully the duties assigned to every office which is made an appendage to his; several of which are standing ministers to the Church, and on whom the Church depends for its freedom from sin and iniquity. The duties of Elder, Priest, Teacher and Deacon, are duly defined by revelation, and no High Priest should be ignorant of what they are; he should use his influence to have them so efficiently performed as to produce their legitimate results among and upon the people.

Those who hold the right of Presidency must be held responsible for any official delinquency, or failure of duty, that shall, under their administration, serve to make the law of none effect; and they are they who belong to this Priesthood, and are recognized as God's High Priests, such as I am now addressing. Well will it be if the sins of the people are not found on their skirts, when called to give an account of their stewardship by Him who has declared that where much is given much will be required.

I would not pass entirely unnoticed the right to make law as vested in presiding authorities. This is an important feature in the government of God. The living oracles, necessary for the salvation or condemnation of any generation are law-makers.

As in the history of every nation or government, conditions arise demanding frequent legislation; so the conditions of God's people today may be changed tomorrow. Every dispensation has a distinct leading feature by which it is recognized from every other. Rules and regulations must be adopted suited to the character of the work to be performed. These come through those who hold the keys, and to whom the work is committed. Those rules and regulations must be observed by those to whom they come, or they are without virtue; are of none effect.

We have an illustration of this principle before us to-day. This Quorum of High Priests has a presidency. It is the right of that presidency to dictate, direct, advise and require to be done what in their wisdom is deemed necessary to promote the life, increase the faith, knowledge and power of the Quorum. To accomplish this, the

members must be instructed in the duties of the many callings to which they have been set apart.

To this end a law has been enacted and published; the decree has gone forth to all the High Priests within this Stake of Zion that they shall meet together once in every month to receive the word of the Lord, by counsel or otherwise, as the presiding Council of the quorum shall dictate; and there learn of all matters pertaining to the administrations of the High Priesthood within the Stake.

This demand upon the members of the Quorum is legitimate; is authoritative; it comes from the head, which has the right to dictate every member of the body. That member that does not respond is in rebellion against the law, is in violation of his own acknowledged faith, and thereby inherits a curse which always follows a disregard and defying of the authority of Priesthood. How well this fact is appreciated by the High Priests of this Stake may be determined by their punctual attendance at time and place of Quorum meetings.

Young men of little experience, and little responsibility are often admonished and even reproved for neglect of duty in not attending their Quorum meetings; but what shall be said of those who have both age and experience; greater Priesthood and responsibilities, whose example they but follow. That member who has become so absorbed in worldly affairs that he has no time to attend his Quorum, Ward or Fast-day meetings, and neglects his duties generally, has little claim on the rights and powers of Priesthood.

Now in conclusion, I would appeal to those present to-day; Do you comprehend the importance of the law of God,—of its faithful administration among the people? Are the keys and powers of Priesthood in your possession? Are you in the enjoyment of its rights, and in the strict performance of its duties? Are its powers at your command? Are you so thoroughly grounded in the knowledge of God and of His ways, that nothing can separate you from His love which was manifest in His Son? If so, the pledge of eternal life is yours; a pledge that will surely be redeemed by Him who is the Father of us all.

Learn of me, and listen to my words; walk in the meekness of my Spirit, and you shall have peace in me.—*Doc. and Cov.*

RELIGIOUS.

Salt Lake Stake Conference.

The Salt Lake Stake Conference commenced at 10 a. m., Sunday, March, 3, 1889, President Angus M. Cannon presiding. On the stand were Apostles Moses Thatcher, J. H. Smith, H. J. Grant and John W. Taylor; also Presiding Bishop Wm. B. Preston, and his Counselor, Bishop John R. Winder.

The choir sang:

Praise ye the Lord! 'tis good to raise
Your hearts and voices in His praise.

Prayer was offered by Bishop Wm. B. Preston.

The choir sang:

Earth is the place where Christ will reign
With all His Saints, a thousand years.

BISHOP WM. B. PRESTON

addressed the congregation. If the Latter-day Saints will give me their faith and prayers I will endeavor to occupy a few moments. "Mormonism," as it is termed, is true. It is the power of God unto salvation to all who will believe and obey its principles. The Gospel we teach is from God, revealed through His Son Jesus Christ. We should study well the lessons taught in it, and learn its principles that we may put them into practice. We do not read and study closely enough, our lessons. We are all children in the Gospel. If we will study by the light of the Holy Spirit we will see that we are but children in the school of the prophets. I may not be able to speak for the people, but I can for myself. We are so occupied with the cares of life that we cannot live the religion of Jesus Christ. The adversary tries to make us believe that we have not time to be a Teacher, Priest, or Bishop, and perform the duties of the offices to which we may be called. It is the business of the adversary to make us so occupied with the affairs of life, that we have not time to live the religion of Jesus Christ. Yet we say and believe it will pay to live that religion. Those who have lived it testify that it gives them a joy and satisfaction in life, that nothing else will. They can bear testimony that Jesus is the Son of God, and that salvation can be secured by obedience to the principles of the Gospel. Those have this testimony who are diligent in the performance of all their duties as Saints; such as ministering to the poor, and laboring in the ministry.

We should strive to be helps in establishing the government of God in the earth, and if we will do this the poor will be made to rejoice in the Holy One of Israel, and God will bless and preserve us. We have much to encourage us. All things in the earth God will bestow upon His righteous people in His own due time, but His wrath will be kindled against the wicked. Those who fight against His work will be wasted away and destroyed.

This continent more than once has been swept clean of its inhabitants on account of their wickedness. The Nephites were as much the children of God as we are, but they were