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## RESURGAM.

The Winter morn of cheerless gray  
Dawns slowly up the sky;  
And in the cold, bleak light of day  
The drifting snow wreaths lie.

And all green things are lost to sight  
Beneath a weight of snow.  
And down into the cold, dark night  
The Winter day doth go.

But 'mid the gloom of wintry skies  
I see a vision fair  
Of fresh Spring morns that brightly rise  
With sweet and balmy air.

Even thus, most gracious Lord, amid  
The gloom of death we see  
Life everlasting safely hid  
And garnered, Lord, in Thee.

The dreary grave is but the field  
Where lies the hopeful grain,  
And what with many a tear we yield  
Shall be our own again.  
J. G. HOWDEN in *Chambers' Journal*.

## THE LESSER PRIESTHOOD

There are in the Church of Christ two branches of the Holy Priesthood—the Melchisedek, which is the greater, and includes the less, and the Aaronic or Lesser Priesthood, which acts under the direction of the higher. They are channels of Divine light and power. Through the Melchisedek Priesthood flow the spiritual blessings to the Church; through the Aaronic come directions as to the temporalities of the Church. The province of the latter being chiefly to minister in things that are temporal, that is for this earth and the present time, it is called the Lesser Priesthood, because the things that are spiritual are greater, for they are eternal and comprehend principles and powers that relate to all the worlds and all the ages.

It is not the purpose of this article to dwell particularly upon the functions and sphere of the higher, but to call attention to some of the duties and purposes of the Lesser Priesthood. At the head of this branch is

the Bishopric. Priests after the order of Aaron, when organized into a quorum, must be presided over in a quorum capacity by a Bishop and two Counselors. The Presiding Bishopric, or Bishopric of the Church, preside over all the Bishops in their simple capacity of Bishops.

This requires some explanation. The office of a Bishop belongs to a lineal firstborn descendant of Aaron whose lineage has been determined by revelation or satisfactory proof. But in the absence of such a descendant, as the greater includes the less, a High Priest after the Order of Melchisedek may be ordained and set apart to act in the office of Bishop. The presiding Bishopric have no jurisdiction over him as a High Priest, but only over his position in the Lesser Priesthood.

The mingling of these two offices or callings sometimes creates a little confusion in the minds of those who do not thoroughly understand them. Bishops are appointed to act in the several Wards. With two Counselors, each Bishop sits as a common judge in Israel. If he were a lineal firstborn descendant of Aaron, he could act in that capacity without Counselors. He may receive tithes and offerings, regulate the temporal affairs of the Church in his Ward, preside over the lesser Priesthood, see that the poor are provided for, and that the members do their duty, and give counsel in secular affairs as may be necessary for the welfare of the members and of the Ward. But he cannot, as a Bishop, preside over meetings when an Elder is present, confirm by the laying on of hands, officially bless a child, or do anything that of right comes under the authority of the Melchisedek Priesthood.

It is an error, therefore, to say that such a Ward is presided over by Bishop So-and-So; that a child re-

ceived "a Bishop's blessing;" or that Bishop Such-a-one confirmed a member in the Church, or that he ordained an Elder. The High Priest who has been ordained and set apart to act as a Bishop may preside, ordain, confirm and bless, but he does all these things as a High Priest after the order of Melchisedek, and not as a Bishop, who acts simply in the Aaronic Priesthood.

This distinction should be kept in mind. When a Bishop's court sits it does not act in the Melchisedek Priesthood. There is no such a court in the Church as a tribunal of three High Priests. The First Presidency is not a court. The most important cases are to be carried up to the High Council, composed of twelve High Priests and presided over by a presiding High Priest and his two Counselors, or by either or both of them. To this tribunal, cases may be appealed from the decisions of the Bishops' Courts.

A Bishop is not a ruler, as supposed by some persons who write against "Mormonism." His functions are ministerial and judicial, in an ecclesiastical sense. One important duty of the Bishopric is care for the needs of the poor. This comprehends something more than receiving and disbursing alms. The feeble, aged, and sick, who are indigent, need support from funds in the hands of the Bishop. But the poor, who are not disabled, should have employment rather than gratuities. Idleness leads to vice, and pauperism is a social evil. To find work for those who cannot find it for themselves, is one of the labors incident to the offices in the lesser Priesthood, and is specially within the sphere of the Bishops.

There is perhaps no more important opportunity for the exercise of the wisdom, discretion and benevolence required in magnifying the calling of a Bishop than in promot-