

have to be ordained again by the proper authorities of the different offices in the Priesthood before he has the right to act in the Priesthood?"

President Cannon answered that such a one could not rightly officiate in any office in the Priesthood until it had been re-conferred upon him by the proper authority.

#### ELDER WM. B. DOUGALL

was requested to speak upon the subject of the Sacrament, which, he said, had been discussed at a meeting of the Home Missionaries recently. He stated that there was a question in the minds of some as to the propriety of partaking of the Lord's Supper except in the kneeling posture, according to their interpretation of the word of the Lord on this subject. For himself, he thought it was a waste of time to discuss such details and to question the rightfulness of what the Priesthood had instituted. The living oracle, he thought, was independent of the dead letter, and whatever that oracle decreed should be done in this respect was the proper thing to do. The speaker also dwelt upon the solemnity of the Sacrament, and thought it was partaken of by many, even in the Tabernacle, without due regard for its sacredness, and at times it seemed to be administered to the congregation without proper order and solemnity. He thought this subject might be properly touched upon by the missionaries in their travels and ministrations, and that there was room for improvement in this and other respects.

#### PRESIDENT ANGUS M. CANNON

approved the remarks of Brother Dougall in relation to the Sacrament, and touched upon other points where he thought correction was necessary. In baptizing, some Elders were in the habit of interpolating such phrases as "for the remission of sins" as a part of the form of the ceremony. This was unauthorized. In correcting such things, however, proper order should be observed. It was not the prerogative of any Elder on the bank, for instance, to correct the one who was in the water performing the ordinance. It was the Bishop's place to be present and direct at such times, and give all necessary instructions. Home missionaries, he said, were not authorized to correct each other in public, thus putting each other to shame before the people in order to glorify self.

#### APOSTLE GEORGE Q. CANNON

was the next speaker. He warmly approved the remarks of the brethren who had spoken, and testified to their correctness. He had noticed that there was quite a disposition prevalent to get up petty discussions on technicalities and details of doctrine and practice, by persons who seemed to think they had made some wonderful discovery in the written word. In relation to the administration of the Sacrament, the speaker read from the Book of Mormon, where the Nephites were commanded by the Lord Je-

sus Christ to "sit themselves down upon the earth" while partaking of the sacred emblems, and at another time to "arise and stand up upon their feet" while so partaking. "Did Jesus do wrong in these things?" he asked. Again the Lord commanded Joseph to have the people kneel at such times. Both practices were correct according as they were commanded. It was owing to changes in circumstances that the commands thus varied, one way being more convenient at a certain time, and the other way more convenient at another time. We should not be pharisaical, tithing the mint and the cummin and neglecting the weightier matters of the law. The Pharisees of old were all the time finding fault with Jesus and His Apostles for ignoring the traditions of the fathers. Brother Dougall had hit the nail squarely on the head. We have the living oracles to direct us. Contentions had existed in the Church from the beginning over this very question of supposed differences between the dead letter and the living oracle. Joseph was denounced as a fallen Prophet, by some, because he would not be bound down by their interpretation of the written word, applicable to different and ever varying circumstances. God is an unchangeable being, truly, but circumstances are continually changing. Records might be piled up here as high as Ensign Peak and they would not govern the Church in preference to the living oracles. The speaker read from a revelation given through Joseph the Prophet to Orson Hyde, (Sec. 88, Book of Doc. & Cov.), wherein it was promised that whatever the servants of the Lord should speak when moved upon by the Holy Ghost "shall be scripture, shall be the will of the Lord, shall be the mind of the Lord, shall be the word of the Lord, the voice of the Lord, and the power of God unto Salvation." Hence, a speaker should be careful to have the Holy Ghost, and if he does not have it, he should not speak at all. It does not follow from this that any man has the right to give revelations to the Church. There is but one man on earth at a time whose province it is to give revelations for the guidance and government of the Church; though others might hold the same priesthood as he. The speaker here read from Section 28 of the Doctrine and Covenants wherein it is stated by the Lord that no other man but Joseph the Prophet at that time could rightfully receive revelations and write them to the Church; though an apostle, Oliver Cowdery, could not rightfully do this, nor command his head, but could speak and write in wisdom for the benefit of the people. Brigham Young, one of the greatest prophets, and one not half appreciated by this generation, wrote but one revelation to the Church during his entire term of Presidency. President Young said that Joseph had written enough to guide the Church for many years, and he did not deem it wisdom to write all that was given to him, for it would make the people more

accountable for their transgressions. Some had taken advantage of this and had set themselves up as prophets and revelators, thinking the Church had no revelator at its head, because the revelations were not written. But this was a delusion. The greatest revelations might be given and yet not be written. The keys and authorities bestowed during the early history of this Church are within it today. God was never nearer to His people than now, and the word of the Lord could be obtained today with as much certainty as ever. True all men were not as remarkably gifted as Joseph the Prophet; very few men ever had been so gifted. Comparisons were not proper as to him. None rose in Israel, like unto Moses, after his day, until the coming of the Son of God. Yet Israel was led by inspired men after Moses had passed away. No man could get the authority to lead this Church, no matter how many revelations he might receive, except he obtained it from those upon whom Joseph had conferred that authority. When you hear men saying: "We have revelation from God, and the Twelve Apostles are all wrong," and setting themselves up to lead the Church, you may know that they are vain pretenders. You can get this testimony, all of you, if you will draw near to God in prayer and correctness of life. This is my testimony, said the speaker. God bless you, and make you mighty in your ministrations among his people. How great a work is before us! How little time we have to waste in petty quarrels and disputations among ourselves. Souls are perishing on all hands and upon us devolves the duty of saving them. We must all repent—Priesthood and people alike. We should be like living fire among this people, seeking their salvation, and not be diverted by lesser issues. The speaker bore a powerful testimony, in conclusion, as to the necessity of general repentance and purification, and predicted the sure and certain triumph of the Kingdom of God.

The meeting was adjourned to the first Saturday in May.

#### EUROPEAN TOPICS.

A law has just been passed in Italy which provides that whenever a clergyman of any church shall speak against the King or the government of Italy he shall be subject to removal. This seems to be a hardship for the Romish priests, who now dare not speak against the power that pays them their stipends.

Two weeks ago Alexander Gavazzi, better known in England and America as "Father Gavazzi," passed suddenly away, at the age of eighty. By the provision of his will the body was cremated and is one of the first instances of cremation among those holding a high rank in society.

It is said that the Pope, who is just one year younger than Gavazzi, hoped to the last that Gavazzi