PRIESTHOOD.

And the Right of Succession.

Remarks by Elder H. H. Roberts, delivered in the Assembly Hall, Salt Lake City, Utah, February 23rd, 1892, 8 p. m., under the management of the T. M. M. I. Association of the Salt Lake Stake.

REPORTED BY J. M. WHITTAKER.]

It is only one thing I regret connected with the appointment of this night, that is, a great many, and I am all, of the Mutual Improvement Associations in this city have selected their regular meetings for the purpose of being present at this meeting, but I trust the importance of the subject to be considered will not be lost, reward us for that extraordinary proceeding.

The subject I propose dealing with evening is

THE PRIESTHOOD AND THE RIGHT OF SUCCESSION.

I could before an audience of this kind is of itself sufficient to inspire the best spoke. To undertake, and to attempt to deal with such a weighty subject in the time allotted to me, would be a temerity of a character I would not dare to do on any time in my life I have been in need of the assistance of Father in Heaven and His good all that I do now.

I have asked, and that by a rather peculiar, the truth of what Paul said concerning the things of God. Under influence of that spirit we may be, it is not possible for anything pertaining to the kingdom of God. Without it, we cannot to arrive at any considerable knowledge in relation to those things.

Brethren, I earnestly ask you to pray for the position that was assigned Brother Geddes in behalf of the Lord, that I may be enabled to deal with a subject this evening, and to the edification of His Holy spirit, and to the edification of the saints in this great subject.

In these remarks we now turn our attention to the subject under consideration. In the revelation from which we are first reminded with the question "What is Priesthood?" The first portion of this comprehensive definition of the subject defines the manner in which Deity has learned to give to us. It is "Power which God has to bless and to minister to the spirit of God; by which he is by and in the name of God set forth." That is Priesthood, as we stand it.

For the benefit of the younger men and sisters who may not grasp the import of these words without further explanation, I will say the following is such a thing known among men as power of attorney. It is that, for instance, a man who has business affairs, perhaps merchandising establishment,—lands, stocks of the whole lot so does not reside in this city, and he wishes to transact business in this city, he may place his power of attorney, or his personal attorney to do business in his behalf. He may do whatever he pleases, he may place great sums of money in his hands, he may place great trusts in his hands, he may place great responsibilities upon him, he may place great power in his hands for him, in the possession of this property, to operate it with a view to increasing wealth. And in order that the proceedings may be lawful, and the people may have confidence in his transactions, we will go to a city notary and draw up an instrument, saying that I give to the following named person, that you shall act for me, I shall be signed, and the seal of notary shall be placed upon it, and then, and the agent, equipped with power of attorney, goes to the business, he buys, he sells, he exchanges, he trades, he loans, he loses money, and purchases other property, or does whatever his judgment may bring one not qualified to do business in the name of the principal, and whatever he does, he continues within the lines marked in this power of attorney, the principal is bound by it. He is considered to be the agent of the principal, and whatever he does, when acting under the law, is as good and valid as if the owner of the property himself were performing transactions. We call that power of agency.

Well, it is something like that. It is a power which God gives to men by which they are made His agents, and are acting in the same way that agent was acting in the case of the merchant. They do whatever they are authorized to do by the Lord Almighty, and it is as good and valid as if the Lord