

**TRUE SUCCESSION IN CHURCH
PRESIDENCY OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS
CHRIST OF LATTER DAY
SAINTS. BEING A REPLY TO ELDER B. H.
ROBERTS ON "SUCCESSION IN THE
PRESIDENCY OF THE CHURCH."**

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HEMAN C. SMITH

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OF THE
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER DAY SAINTS.

BEING A REPLY TO ELDER B. H. ROBERTS ON
"SUCCESSION IN THE PRESIDENCY OF THE CHURCH."

BY ^{Conover}
ELDER HEMAN C. SMITH,
Church Historian.

"While I have powers of body and mind; while water runs and grass grows; while virtue is lovely, and vice hateful; and while a stone points out a sacred spot where a fragment of American liberty once was; I or my posterity will plead the cause of injured innocence. . . ."—Joseph Smith, *Times and Seasons*, vol. 5, p. 395.

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PREFACE.

THE only apology needed for the appearance of this work is, that we have been attacked, and it is both a privilege and a duty to respond. Some have thought the church was too slow and should have replied long ago. But had we rushed into print when the work of Mr. Roberts first appeared, we would have done so unadvisedly. We did not know whether he was authorized to write or not; nor did we know whether the church he represented would indorse his positions; hence no one was appointed to reply; though it was not lost sight of, and several of the elders upon their own responsibility were carefully collecting material for use in such reply. Now that the representatives of the church in Utah, both in Europe and America, have made it their chief weapon of attack and defense, we think the opportune time has come, for they are thus pledged to its support. Further, we have the direct testimony of Mr. Roberts that the First Presidency in Utah indorsed his work. The book was copyrighted in February, 1894.

In the latter part of the year 1895 Mr. Roberts, together with Moses Thatcher, fell under the displeasure of church authorities for his political actions; while under the ban of disapproval he was interviewed, and the interview published in the *Salt Lake Tribune* for October 14, 1895. The following is an extract from the interview:—

STATEMENT BY ROBERTS.

CLAIMS THAT HE CONFRONTS A GRAVE CRISIS.

The following authorized statement by B. H. Roberts, in the form of an interview, was given out at the Democratic State headquarters last evening.

Being asked for his views upon the present political situation, Mr. Roberts said:—

PREFACE.

"I have always regarded myself as properly respectful and attentive to church authority. In my labors in the church, whether in missionary or literary affairs. I have always consulted with the presidency when communication was possible; and their wishes have been respectfully followed. All the manuscripts of tracts and books of which I am the author, that have been written in advocacy or defense of the Mormon faith, have been invariably submitted to their personal inspection or to the inspection of committees appointed by them."

This, then, fixes the responsibility of an indorsement upon the Presidency; and in meeting the issues discussed by Mr. Roberts in "Succession in the Presidency of the Church," we are not simply meeting Mr. Roberts alone, but we are meeting the authorized positions of the church in Utah upon the issues involved.

In addition to this Mr. Roberts is one of the seven Presidents of Seventy, a leading minister, a popular lecturer, and an author of no mean repute among his fellows, being the author of the "Life of John Taylor," "Outlines of Ecclesiastical History," "The Gospel," and other publications.

Having then located our contestants and estimated the strength of their position, we advance to the examination confident of the final triumph of the right wherever found; and send forth this little book with a humble prayer that the erring may learn wisdom and the darkened mind receive light. We wish here to gratefully acknowledge the assistance rendered us by valuable suggestions given us by several.

With much confidence we submit the issues involved to the careful investigation of an indulgent, but discerning public.

THE AUTHOR.

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