held this authority in ancient times, on
the earth, and have gone into a higher
sphere in the due course of their pro-
gression, by divine commandment have
come back to earth, and ordained men
to the authority and power and Priest-
hood which they held while they were
in the flesh. That is why we claim that
the authority to administer in the name
of the Lord is in this church and in no
other church on the earth; that all other
Priesthoods, so called, are spurious. We
do not say that there are not good men
in other denominations, claiming to hold
authority to preach and administer in
the name of the Lord; but we claim
that they have no authority in reality,
because they themselves have declared
that all communication has been shut off
from the heavens, for hundreds of years,
and as there has been no communication
from the heavens for hundreds of years,
no authority could have been conferred,
unless it was continuous, from the days
of the Apostles to the present day. But
most of those persons who now claim to
hold authority from God to preach and
to administer in the ordinances of the
Gospel, repudiate the idea that the au-
thority was continuous, and declare that
after the days of the apostles, darkness
came in, that the world went astray, and
that an abominable church arose in the
place of that which was established by
Jesus and His Apostles.

Now, this authority which has been
sent down from God out of heaven, is
similar in its nature to that exercised by
men about whom we read in the Bible.
We read about one in the patriarchal
ages called Melchizedek, who held this
Priesthood. Abraham went and paid
his tithing to him after he came back
from overcoming those kings that he con-
quered. Melchizedek, we are told, was
the Prince of Salem, and he was a
Priest of the Most High God. And af-
fter many generations had passed away,
Jesus of Nazareth came upon the earth
and claimed to have that same Priest-
hood. He was called to be a Priest af-
ther the order of Melchizedek, that is, He
had the same kind of Priesthood that
Melchizedek had. We read a little about
this Melchizedek, in the Epistle of Paul
to the Hebrews, and about the Priest-
hood he held. Some people in reading
this confound the Priesthood or author-
ity which Melchizedek had with the man
himself. They read it that he was "With-
out father, without mother, without de-
cent, having neither beginning of days,
nor end of life." That is a curious kind of
man, is it not? Some people say that that
meant Jesus himself. But that could not
apply to Jesus, for his descent is given
in the Bible. He had a reputed father,
Joseph, and a real mother, Mary; and
His Father in heaven was His real Fa-
ther; for we are told that He was the first
begotten in the spirit and the only be-
gotten in the flesh. This, then, did not
apply to Jesus, nor did it apply to any
other man; it applied to the Priesthood or
authority which Melchizedek held. The
Priesthood of Aaron or Levi, came by
descent; it came to a man because he
belonged to a certain lineage; but this
Melchizedek Priesthood did not come by
lineage; it came to all upon whom God
pleased to bestow it. Jesus was called
to be a Priest forever, after the order of
Melchizedek, who was the Prince of
Salem, a Priest of the Most High God.
Moses had this same Priesthood. He re-
ceived it from Jethro. There was an-
other Priesthood in the days of Moses
and Aaron, the Levitical, which de-