

15
than by recalling the very word
with which Jehovah inspired Mo-
ses? That the mouth whose
service He now demanding, was His
own contrivance; it might fairly be
believed, contrived therefore to do
this very work; & furnished to the
furnished with facilities by special
Divine Endowment.

The Gift of the Mouth

Of reluctant Moses God asked the ques-
tion: "Who hath made man's mouth?"
The gift of the Mouth is, indeed, second
to none of all God's inestimable tem-
poral gifts to us. We might perhaps
deem the loss of our own individual
power of speech, less to be deplored than
the loss of our own individual eyesight,
after having once possessed ~~each~~ both.
But here it a question of a blind world

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or a dumb world, from the begin-
ning—beginning & continuing
dumb, or else blind:— I imag-
ine none of us would find much
advantage to choose in either;
least certainly in the possible
state of a speechless world.

God made man's mouth, & per-

Er on at old p. 19.

was God's choice; God would be
his guard— God, who had saved him
in the bulrushes, had given him
his own mother's care by a won-
derful providence!

So Moses objected; and God, with
divine patience, refuted one argument
of his after another — a wonderful
scene! man arguing ag^t God, and hop-
ing to win! But at last, beaten from
every other defense, at last Moses
takes refuge in this: O my Lord, I
am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor
since Thou hast spoken unto Thy ser-
vant; but I am slow of speech, & of a
slow tongue.

~~Marvelous, unaccountable fatuity!~~
~~Here is a man commanded of the~~
~~Almighty God to go & be Divine am-~~
~~bassador before a human Emperor,~~
~~and furnished ere he goes, with cre-~~
~~dentials that shall make even that~~

~~emperor confess his power; and
vauntous power, such as did, at least, com-
pel the Pharaoh to grant his demands.
This man, thus honored of the Al-
mighty, cannot rise to the dignity
of faith which places God with him
in the Pharaoh's court, but trem-
bles with fear; at the thought of
~~addressing a potentate whose first
word may slay him,~~ — yet:
fearful to speak to a king, this
man stands arguing with the Om-
nipotent Jehovah! and this, I won-
der of logic! this is his plea: "O
my Lord, I am slow of speech, I of
a slow tongue!"~~

— To compare great things with
small, this is like nothing else
but ^{an incident from legend of} a wandering foreigner, of a
tongue unusual, but by chance
partly familiar to a lady, of whom

9 of the month: the deliberate, un-
impassioned, perilous facing of the
terrible autocret, with mere declara-
tions and requests, unarm'd & alone.

It must be admitted, this infir-
mity shown hereby Moses was in-
deed natural. It was easier far to
strike down the taskmaster by a
blow, than to stand talking before
the most awful man on the earth.
It was like the task of which a
brave soldier once told me: to stay
exposed in the tower of the signal-
service, coolly telegraphing by code
while the battle raged below &
ever threatened his life; ^{a task,} requiring cour-
age & steadiness of a far higher qual-
ity than to wrangle in the petty
of man & know nothing but me-
chanical struggle. <sup>Moses, the call implied the leadership of a great mission, full of untold
mysteries; & well might any man tremble in view of so vast a responsi-</sup> ^{bility!}

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