

others who had been called to mourn the loss of their beloved ones, those who had died among the nations of the earth, had all cause to rejoice in that they continued faithful until called hence; and when the books were opened and we could understand these things aright, it would be seen that the hand of the Lord was in it and that what He had done was in accordance with His mind and will.

In conclusion, President Woodruff prayed that the comforting influence of the Lord might rest down upon the sorrowing ones, until our bodies and spirits were reunited on the morning of the resurrection.

PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH

said he did not feel that morning in the spirit of death nor in that of mourning, but rather in that of rejoicing. He felt gratitude to God our heavenly Father for His great mercy and loving-kindness towards us His children. Certainly we had no reason to mourn for Brother David Hoagland Cannon. His spirit did not mourn today, but rejoiced in the freedom which it had obtained, and in the glory and exaltation which he had acquired.

It was not at all strange that so many of our Elders had passed away from this stage of existence while abroad in the missionary field. The wonder to him, indeed, was that out of the vast multitude of Elders who had been sent out to preach the Gospel to the nations of the earth so very few of them had met with death in foreign lands, and it was, to himself, an evidence that the peculiar favor and blessing of the Almighty had been extended in a wonderful measure towards them, from the beginning of this latter-day work; it was remarkable that more of them had not fallen a prey to disease, hardship and the hand of the assassin.

We were all awaiting the time when, one by one, we should pass behind the veil. When we considered that not a son or daughter of God who had been born in the flesh would escape the ordeal which was called death, we need not feel to mourn when the good and faithful, the true and noble of His children, were called hence. We would not call back the spirit of Brother David H. Cannon nor of those whose names have just been enumerated, and who had died in harness—in the service of God in the mission field, or in going to or returning from it. They had died in the discharge of their duty in faithfulness before the Lord—faithful to their trust, faithful to their covenants, and the reward of the faithful had been given unto them. It was true that our natural feelings were grieved at the departure of those whom we loved; it was natural that we should mourn over losing their presence and their society on earth; but when we knew that it was beyond our power to add one cubit to their stature in righteousness or to diminish aught in them—when we knew they had been faithful and were indeed the servants of God, and had died in His service, what more could we desire? If he could but know that his children would be permitted to lay down their lives as had Brother David H. Cannon and those other missionaries—in every particular the same—how much preferable

would that be to him than to feel that any one of them should be suffered to deny the truth and depart from the way of life and salvation.

With himself there was no question as to the truth of this Gospel, in the advocacy and promulgation of which these their brethren had died—no doubt in regard to the divinity of this work. He was satisfied in his heart and mind that it was of God, that there was no greater work in which a man could engage and none more worthy of the sacrifice of our natural life or the time and ability which God had given us. These Elders had laid down their lives while seeking to bring mankind to a knowledge of the truth as restored to the earth in this dispensation; and he thanked God they had been permitted to do this in His service. All was well with them, and might our Heavenly Father grant unto us the same spirit which animated the late Brother Cannon while upon his mission. May the same spirit that was breathed in his communication to his sister, take possession of the hearts and minds of our young men and women in Zion. No higher, no more noble spirit or aspiration could possibly animate their souls than was breathed in that one letter, written just previous to his death. If we could only possess that spirit and be actuated by it, all would be well with us whether in life or in death. He thanked God that young men like Brother David Hoagland Cannon had been raised up in the midst of this people, and he prayed that the same spirit which he manifested and the same faith which he obtained from God might be given in great abundance to the children of Zion and to His people throughout the length and breadth of the land; because he did know that it was the Spirit of God, the spirit of righteousness, of holiness, meekness and truth, the spirit of the Gospel of the Son of God.

May God bless and comfort those who have been deprived of the society of a loved son and a loved brother, may peace and consolation dwell in their hearts, and be poured upon them in rich abundance, and may they rejoice in the great and glorious principles of the Gospel for which he laid down his life as a sacrifice. May we emulate his example and follow in his footsteps, live the life he has lived, and accomplish as much good as he has accomplished while we remain in the flesh, and as much more as it may be possible.

APOSTLE FRANKLIN D. RICHARDS

was the next speaker. He said he felt as though, more or less, he were this morning in the presence of those departed ones whose names he had before read to the congregation. The services on that occasion were in condolence with their worthy brother, President George Q. Cannon, and his household, as well as with the relatives of other missionaries who had died while laboring in the Lord's vineyard abroad, in their bereavement; but as President Joseph F. Smith had expressed it, they felt not to sorrow under such circumstances but rather to rejoice.

It was not his intention to take up the time of the meeting with any lengthened remarks of his own; he wished, however, to read an extract

from a sermon preached by the Prophet Joseph Smith on April 16th, 1843, just after receiving the news of the death of Elder Lorenzo D. Barnes, at Bradford, England, which occurred on December 20th, 1842. As reported by Willard Richards and Willford Woodruff, the Prophet said:

When I heard of the death of our beloved Brother Barnes, it would not have affected me so much if I had the opportunity of burying him in the land of Zion.

I believe those who have buried their friends here, their condition is enviable. Look at Jacob and Joseph in Egypt, how they required their friends to bury them in the tomb of their fathers. See the expense which attended the embalming and the going up of the great company to the burial.

It has always been considered a great calamity not to obtain an honorable burial; and one of the greatest curses the ancient Prophets could put on any man was, that he should go without a burial.

I have said, Father, I desire to die here among the Saints. But if this is not thy will, and I go hence and die, wilt thou find some kind friend and bring my body back, and gather my friends who have fallen in foreign lands, and bring them up hither, that we may all lie together.

I will tell you what I want. If tomorrow I shall be called to lie in yonder tomb, in the morning of the resurrection let me strike hands with my father, and cry, "My father," and he will say, "My son, my son," as soon as the rock rolls and before we come out of our grave.

And may we contemplate these things so? Yes, if we learn how to live and how to die. When we lie down we contemplate how we may rise up in the morning; and it is pleasing for friends to lie down together, locked in the arms of love, to sleep, and awake in each other's embrace, and renew their conversation.

Would you think it strange if I relate what I have seen in vision in relation to this interesting theme? Those who have died in Jesus Christ may expect to enter into all that fruition of joy, when they come forth, which they possessed or anticipated here.

So plain was the vision, that I actually saw men, before they had ascended from the tomb, as though they were getting up slowly. They took each other by the hand; and said to each other, "My father, my son, my mother, my daughter, my brother, my sister." And when the voice calls for the dead to arise, suppose I am laid by the side of my father, what would be the first joy of my heart? To meet my father, my mother, my brother, my sister; and when they are by my side, I embrace them, and they me.

It is my meditation all the day, and more than my meat and drink, to know how I shall make the Saints of God comprehend the vision that roll like an overflowing surge before my mind.

Oh! how I would delight to bring before you things which you never thought of! But poverty and the cares of the world prevent. But I am glad I have the privilege of communicating to you some things, which, if grasped closely, will be a help to you when earthquakes follow, the clouds gather, the lightnings flash, and the storms are ready to burst upon you like peals of thunder. Lay hold of these things, and let not your knees or joints tremble, nor your hearts faint; and then what can earthquakes, wars, and tornadoes do? Nothing. All your losses will be made up to you in the resurrection, provided you continue faithful. By the vision of the Almighty I have seen it.

The expectation of seeing my friends in the morning of the resurrection cheers my soul and makes me bear up against the evils of life. It is like their taking a