

## FUNERAL OF APOSTLE ABRAHAM H. CANNON.

Sunday, July 26, 1896, will ever stand conspicuous in the list of sad days when Utah people have been called upon to consign to a tomb in mother earth the remains of one of her staunchest, most useful and respected sons. Such a day was yesterday, and such a son was Abraham Hosiand Cannon.

The test of a man's popularity was never better exemplified than by the tens of thousands of people who left their homes to do honor to the illustrious and beloved dead. It is a conservative estimate to state that at least 30,000 souls, more than one half of the city's population, either attended the Tabernacle, viewed the great funeral procession or visited the cemetery where they bared and bowed their heads in grief. Then many came from the county and from cities and towns remotely located. All things considered the concourse is without a parallel in Utah history. It will never be forgotten by those who witnessed it and all will remember it with feelings of regret.

The day was an ideal one. The heat was tempered by light, fleecy clouds that held in check the scorching rays of a summer sun and a gentle breeze blew its way over the mourning city. The ceremonies in the Tabernacle were simple, instructive, solemn and impressive to a marked degree. Every part of the great structure was filled by an audience of from 12,000 to 15,000 people, while immense crowds stood reverently and patiently without its walls waiting for the service to end. Solid, and at some points impenetrable, masses of humanity lined the course of the funeral procession. From West Temple to N street, a distance of sixteen blocks along South Temple, spectators stood in an unbroken column, overlapping the sidewalk and crowded into the road. A silence that was almost painful was observable from beginning to close. Long before the ceremonies in the Tabernacle had concluded citizens began to flock to the city cemetery, and when the advance column of the cortege arrived the place was already well filled by those who desired to witness the last sad rite.

### AT THE RESIDENCE.

#### A Large Concourse of People Take a Last Look at the Dead.

In the way of preliminaries to the funeral of Elder Cannon came the taking of a last look at the deceased. This took place at the family residence from 11 a. m. to 12 noon, but long before that hour carriages were seen wending their way to the home of the deceased, on Ninth South and Eighth West streets. Those who came during the earlier hours, however, were people connected with the family, and their presence while mainly for the purpose of being privileged to take a parting glance at the features of Brother Cannon, was likewise prompted by a feeling to render what assistance they could to those upon whom the sad affliction had fallen so heavily. Ready hands and willing hearts were numerous and this very pleasing feature caused the hearts of those who

were being assisted to well up within them at the feeling of good will, respect and filial affection which possessed those who had gathered around.

During this time—from about 10 a. m. until 12 o'clock noon—several hundred people, mostly intimate friends, passed through the home of the deceased, and with tears in their eyes took a last look at the face of one who in life they had learned to love and respect. Besides the relatives and intimate friends, there were others, neighbors of the family, who also gained admission to the house and viewed the dead.

The features of Elder Cannon were the same as in life; a pleasant countenance entering almost upon a smile greeted the onlookers, and his general appearance indicated the truth of that inspired remark, "He is not dead, but sleepeth." His body, enclosed in the casket, lay in the parlor of the home in which his last days on earth had been spent while in the same room sat members of the family who were made constant recipients of sympathetic expressions and handshakes from those present.

The gathering of people at the home grew to such extensive proportions until the lawns and gardens surrounding the residence of the deceased were dotted with men and women, conversing with each other and recalling in their conversation the many glorious and God-like attributes of the deceased. His efforts, too, in making his homes pleasant and attractive were also freely commented on, as his work in that direction stood out in bold relief, and more especially to those who but a few years ago had crossed and recrossed the identical tract of land upon which Brother Cannon's homes now stood, when it was almost thought to be unfit for habitation or even cultivation. But the thrift and energy of Elder Cannon had been thrown out in the direction of rearing for his families comfortable homes and surroundings and how well he had succeeded in this respect was plainly evident even to the indifferent observer.

Just about 12 o'clock President Woodruff arrived and entered the home of the deceased at a time when the father, President George Q. Cannon, and the family were viewing for the last time the features of their loved one in mortality. All bore the great strain with heroic fortitude, and while they felt that the blow was almost more than they were able to bear, still they appeared to have become reconciled to the knowledge that God the Father in His omnipotence doeth all things well.

At nearly 12:30 o'clock members of the Quorum of Apostles acting as pall bearers arrived in carriage. In the hands of these brethren had rested the duty of making all arrangements for the funeral of their departed co-laborer, and how well they had performed that duty was manifest in the precision with which every feature was carried out.

Shortly after this the hearse which was to bear the body of the dead to the Tabernacle and from thence to the cemetery, arrived, together with Elder Joseph E. Taylor, in whose hands rested the duty of acting as undertaker. The arrival of the hearse was closely

followed by a band of one hundred children, members of the Fifth ward Sunday school, under the chaperonage of Superintendent George Clark, his assistants and teachers. This movement was brought about from the fact that until recently Elder Cannon's children had been pupils in the same Sunday school.

Precisely at 1 o'clock the front door of the deceased's home was thrown ajar and the casket in which reposed the lifeless form of Elder Cannon, was borne through it, out to the hearse, by those upon whom devolved that part of the proceedings. Directly in front of the coffin walked Elders Lorenzo Snow and Franklin D. Richards, while bearing the weight of the casket were Elders Heber J. Grant, Brigham Young, George Tensdale, John W. Taylor, Francis M. Lyman, John Henry Smith and Marriner W. Merrill. Behind these brethren came Presidents Willford Woodruff, George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith, followed closely by the wives of the dead Apostle and other members of the family.

When the casket had been deposited in the hearse the funeral party took carriages and the procession to the Tabernacle was commenced, the pallbearers' carriages being first in line, the hearse next, with the children of the deceased, his father, wives, brothers, sisters and other relatives coming following in the long array of vehicles. The line of march was north on Eighth West to Third South street, thence diagonally northeast to Second South and Seventh West streets, thence north on Seventh West to First South thence east on First South to West Temple street, thence north on West Temple to North Temple, thence east to the north entrance of the Temple block. The cortege in this line of march numbered forty carriages and many people witnessed the procession, as it passed along on its way to the Tabernacle.

### THE DECORATIONS.

At the large Tabernacle the decorations were most beautiful and appropriate. All of the stands were elegantly draped in white crepe, looped with cord and tassels in the most graceful design. There was nothing suggestive of gloom or despair; all was emblematical of peace, love, beauty and hope. The flowers and shrubbery were arranged in a most artistic manner all across and on either side of the stands. Palms, oleanders in bloom, India rubber trees, evergreens and ornamental and blooming plants in great variety were placed at every available point, giving a most lovely effect.

Of the special tributes of flowers, of which there were many, some of the most prominent were on the platform in front of the stands. One of these was a broken tree, of most elegant arrangement, and more than four feet in width; on it were resting three white doves. This was on the left of the platform. It was from the Bullion-Beck and Champion Mining company, of which the deceased had been an official. From P. H. Lannan, and situated on the extreme right of the platform was an elegant floral pillar on