

REMARKS

BY

PRESIDENT GEO. Q. CANNON,
 APOSTLE M. THATCHER,
 ELDER GEORGE F. GIBBS
 AND
 PRESIDENT JOHN TAYLOR,

AT THE

Funeral Services over the remains of
 Elder John H. Gibbs, held in the
 Bowers attached to the Meeting
 House, Paradise, Sunday
 Afternoon, August
 24th, 1884.

REPORTED BY JOHN IRVINE.

PRESIDENT GEO. Q. CANNON was
 the first speaker. He said:

I will read from the 6th chapter of
 the Revelations of St. John, commenc-
 ing at the 9th verse:

"And when he had opened the fifth seal,
 I saw under the altar the souls of them that
 were slain for the testimony which they held.

"And they cried with a loud voice, say-
 ing, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost
 thou not judge and avenge our blood on
 them that dwell on the earth?"

"And white robes were given unto every
 one of them, that they should rest yet for a
 little season, until their fellow servants also
 and their brethren, that they should be killed
 as they were, should be fulfilled."

In the next chapter we find the fol-
 lowing:

"And all the angels stood around the
 throne, and about the elders and the four
 beasts, and fell before the throne on their
 faces, and worshipped God,

"Saying, Amen: Blessing and glory, and
 wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and
 power, and might, be unto our God for ever
 and ever. Amen."

"And one of the elders answered, saying
 unto me, What are these which are arrayed
 in white robes? and whence came they?"

"And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest.
 And he said to me, These are they which
 come out of great tribulation, and have
 washed their robes, and have made them
 white in the blood of the Lamb."

"Therefore they are, before the throne of
 God, and serve him day and night in his
 temple: and he that sitteth on the throne
 shall dwell among them."

"They shall hunger no more, neither
 thirst any more; neither shall the sun light
 on them, nor any heat."

"For the Lamb which is in the midst of
 the throne, shall feed them, and shall lead
 them unto living fountains of waters: and
 God shall wipe away all tears from their
 eyes."

If I were to consult my feelings on
 the present occasion I would much
 rather sit still and listen than to at-
 tempt to speak or to give utterance to
 the feelings that I have had since com-
 ing into this shade. But we have as-
 sembled together to-day to pay our
 last tribute of respect and honor unto
 the martyred dead, and it is meet and
 proper that we should control our feel-
 ings and endeavor to say something
 that shall be consolatory to the living,
 and that shall have the effect to make
 this lesson an impressive one to all of
 us, and especially to the young men
 and young women, the rising genera-
 tion of this people.

It is not a new thing in the history of
 the work of the last days for the blood
 of innocence to be shed; but the fre-
 quency of these occurrences does not
 take away from the anguish and the
 sorrow, and those poignant feelings
 that are created by such atrocious acts.
 We cannot become reconciled to these
 things sufficiently, fortify ourselves
 as we may, to escape feeling upon oc-
 casions of this character that we are
 all liable at any time to be called to lay
 down our lives for the truth's sake.
 Whenever our brethren are thus called
 as sacrifices for the truth, it requires
 the comforting influence and strength
 which God alone can give to reconcile
 us, so that we can bear these blows
 with equanimity and with the resigna-
 tion which should characterize people
 of our profession.

When the Gospel was revealed from
 heaven in these latter times, it was
 told to those who received it—not
 only to Joseph the Seer, but to others
 who received it from him—that the es-
 pousal and advocacy of these prin-
 ciples might cost them their lives, and
 there is a plain intimation in one of
 the early revelations to Joseph that his
 life might be required. During his
 lifetime he lived under perpetual at-
 tacks from his enemies; not that he
 lived in dread, but there was constant
 reason to fear, however, all the days
 of his life, through the revelation of
 the truth to him, and the bestowal
 of the holy Priesthood upon him, that at
 any moment he might fall a victim to the
 rage of those who hated the truth. He
 never at any time led those who re-
 ceived the Gospel to anticipate that
 their fate would be any better than his,
 for every man and woman was taught
 that if the principles were what we be-
 lieved them to be, that which he testi-
 fied they were, it was worthy of their
 lives, and of every other sacrifice they
 might be called to make. Men, there-
 fore, in espousing the Gospel of Jesus
 Christ in these last days, espouse it,
 as a general rule, with a full knowl-
 edge of the consequences involved
 therein. They have not been told that
 their pathway would be strewn with
 flowers, that they would be surround-
 ed with ease and comfort, and that
 they would have friends on every hand
 and be popular; but where faithful
 Elders have gone out preaching the
 Gospel, they have gone declaring unto

the inhabitants of the earth that the
 same sacrifice which had been called
 for in ancient days when Jesus com-
 menced His Gospel unto men—that
 the same sacrifices might still, in all
 probability, be demanded of them, and
 they have been told not to hold their
 lives dear unto them, but for the sake
 of the great riches which God had be-
 stowed, and the great and glorious re-
 ward that He had promised, they
 should be willing, if it were necessary,
 and God should require such sacrifice
 at their hands, to lay down their lives
 for the truth. And it was well that
 these teachings were given to the peo-
 ple; for the early history of our
 Church, and every step of its progress,
 has been marked with suffering, and in
 many instances with blood; the sacri-
 fice of earthly ties, the sacrifice of
 homes, of friends, of old associations,
 of kindred, of native land—these sac-
 rifices have been made by all who have
 connected themselves and remained
 connected with the Zion of our God.
 And besides these, not unfrequently has
 been the case that bodily torture has
 been inflicted through the attacks and
 the malicious spirit of those who have
 hated the truth, and not unfrequently
 life itself has been given for the cause
 of God, or as a testimony to the truth
 of that cause which He has established.
 Since our arrival, however, in these
 valleys it has been hoped that we
 would escape the fierce intolerance of
 the wicked. Years elapsed after our
 reaching here during which we dwelt
 in peace and free from annoyance and
 from the attacks of the wicked. Our
 Elders have traveled through various
 nations of Europe, and though perse-
 cuted and treated with contumely at
 times, still blood has not been shed.
 No men have been destroyed among
 the nations of Europe who have gone
 forth bearing the message of life and
 salvation.

The Lord in His mercy of late years
 has moved upon His servants to send
 the messengers of life and salvation to
 our own nation, and they have gone
 according to God's command to warn
 the people of the impending judgments
 and calamities that are about to be
 poured out upon this nation in com-
 mon with other nations. The Elders
 have labored with great zeal, and in
 many instances with great success,
 and have been the means of carrying
 the glad tidings of salvation to very
 many souls, and this success has
 seemed to arouse the powers of dark-
 ness. Embittered by the falsehoods
 that have been circulated concerning
 us, men have sought to stop the on-
 ward progress of the work by seeking
 to destroy those who were its mes-
 sengers and ministers. We have heard
 frequently of mobs, especially in the
 Southern States where the Elders have
 labored for some years past. Occa-
 sionally they have resorted to violence
 and in several instances have made at-
 tempts at taking life, and before the
 recent massacre, succeeded, at least
 in killing one Elder—Joseph Standing,
 in the State of Georgia. It seems as
 though the adversary has been deter-
 mined that if he could not stop the
 progress of this work in any other way
 he would drown it in blood. It is due
 to the providence of God and to His
 wonderful and preserving care that we
 who live in these valleys have been
 preserved in peace. The credit of our
 preservation from blood—that is, from
 war and consequent bloodshed—is
 due to our Great Creator; for if the ad-
 versary, who is the great antagonist of
 our God and of His work, could have
 had his way our peaceful valleys would
 have been drenched in the blood of in-
 nocence. He who opposes this work
 does not hesitate at any means to stop
 its progress. He was a murderer from
 the beginning, and he has sought by
 every means in his power, by the cir-
 culation of wicked, abominable false-
 hoods against the Latter-day Saints,
 to stir up men to bloodshed and to
 cause them to look upon us as a peo-
 ple whose death would be well merit-
 ed, and against whom acts of violence
 of the most terrible character could be
 committed and be entirely justifiable.
 It is not due to Satan, it is not due to
 his mercy nor his forbearance that we
 have thus escaped, but it is due to the
 mercy and the overruling providence
 and the fatherly care of our Great
 Creator that we who are here to-day
 with the rest of our brethren and sis-
 ters who are assembled in the various
 places of worship at this present time
 —that we have been and still are pre-
 served. A feeling has gone abroad, in
 consequence of the lies that the father
 of lies has propagated, that causes
 thousands of people to think that if
 the Latter-day Saints, or Mormons,
 could be blotted out, it would be a
 most praiseworthy and justifiable act,
 and it is that spirit, engendered by that
 being, emanating from that source,
 that has caused the death of these our
 beloved brethren for whom we mourn
 to-day. That spirit of murderous hate,
 unmerciful, cruel, brutal, when it takes
 possession of the heart of man, leaves
 no room for a gleam of compassion to
 enter. It was that spirit that caused
 the crucifixion of the most glorious
 Being, the holiest, the purest, and
 best that ever trod the earth, that gen-
 tle Being, the Son of God—it was that
 spirit that crucified Him in the most
 ignominious manner; that spirit
 brought Him to that cruel death, as it
 had done the prophets that had prece-
 ded Him. Pitiless as the grave is that
 spirit, the spirit of the evil one, when it
 takes possession of man, transform-
 ing those who naturally might be com-
 passionate, who naturally might have
 hearts open to the appeals of mercy—
 transforming them into demons of
 hate, filled with an unquenchable de-
 sire for the blood of their fellow men.
 It is that spirit that has caused mur-

ders in every age from the day that the
 blood of Abel stained the soil of the
 virgin earth until this brutal massacre
 through which the soil of the State of
 Tennessee has been drenched and
 stained with innocent blood. We need
 not wonder at these occurrences when
 we read the history of the past and
 that which was done to the Son of
 God Himself; and to the Prophets and
 Apostles, and in our own day, to the
 martyred Joseph, the Prophet of God,
 and his brother Hyrum. We do not
 depend upon tradition for our ideas
 respecting Joseph and Hyrum. They
 were known to us. Their actions are
 familiar, their efforts and all their la-
 bors we know and understand, and we
 know how innocent they were. We
 know that every pulsation of their
 hearts beat with love for humanity
 and for the salvation of their race, as
 did the heart of this our beloved bro-
 ther, John H. Gibbs, when it was liv-
 ing. Every pulsation was filled with
 love for God, and a desire for the
 salvation of God's children upon the
 earth. But towards such as these, the
 spirit of the evil one has no mercy.
 Nothing less than blood will satisfy,
 and it has been so from the very be-
 ginning.

Whom shall we pity to-day? This
 murdered victim and the other mur-
 dered victim whose body has gone to
 his home? For whom shall we shed
 tears and our hearts swell with pity?
 Shall it be for these our murdered
 brethren, these beloved ones, these
 sainted martyrs, who died in the dis-
 charge of duty, serving their God and
 seeking earnestly for the salvation of
 their fellow men? Shall our hearts
 swell with pity for them and their fate?
 No. There is no room for pity in my
 heart for them. I feel thankful to
 God, not that they were slain, but that
 they were courageous enough to die
 for the truth which the Savior died
 for, for which the blood of Joseph and
 for which the blood of all the martyrs
 from the days of righteous Abel until
 to-day has been shed. For whom,
 then, does my pity go out? For the
 murderers of these holy men. For
 them my pity is deep, is profound, is
 inexpressible. Is not this strange that
 I should have feelings of this kind for
 the murderers?

When I think of their future; of the
 penalty they have brought upon them-
 selves; when I think how blindly they
 have been led by the adversary of
 souls, who was a murderer from the
 beginning, who rebelled against our
 Father in Heaven, and is the great ene-
 my of the human race, and who seeks
 to destroy the children of our God—
 when I think of them I am filled with
 pity for their fate. As for these vic-
 tims—this our beloved Brother Gibbs
 and our beloved Brother Berry—we
 know what is in store for them. They
 have received, or rather will receive
 crowns of glory, immortal glory. They
 will be the companions of the Gods.
 They will sit down with Jesus the
 Mediator of the new covenant. By
 their deaths they will secure an en-
 trance into the society of the Prophets
 and the Apostles, and the martyrs, the
 noblest, the holiest, the best, the most
 exalted of our race. There is no glory
 that God can give to man, there is no
 exaltation that God can bestow upon
 man that these our martyred brethren
 will not receive. Untrammelled now,
 having passed the gates of death, their
 tabernacles having been destroyed,
 their spirits have gone to the paradise
 of God. There awaits them continual
 progress. They have entered upon a
 career of never ending glory, a career
 that will never terminate throughout
 the endless ages of eternity; for they
 have done all that mortal men could
 do, they have been willing to lay down
 their lives for the truth, and greater
 love no man can exhibit than this.
 Therefore, so far as they are con-
 cerned, aside from the atrocity of the
 deed that brought them to so untimely
 a death, aside from the poignant sor-
 row that must fill the hearts of the
 widows, the orphan children, the par-
 ents and brothers and sisters and
 friends—aside from these there is no
 cause for grief to-day, not for these
 brethren, at least; but as I have said,
 Woe to the men! woe to the men! who
 have committed this ghastly crime. I
 cannot contemplate their future with-
 out my blood being chilled, and being
 appalled at the damnation that awaiteth
 all such individuals.

My brethren and sisters, I pray God
 to make this an example for all of us.
 I say to the young men of Israel—Here
 before you is an example worthy of
 your imitation. What is death? Shall
 it be feared? Death comes to all, the
 coward as well as the brave man. The
 coward has to meet his fate, and why
 should we shrink from it? A few days
 or a few weeks or months or years at
 the most will only elapse until death
 will overtake all. Let us seek as a
 people to be prepared to meet death,
 to flinch not from the path of duty,
 from the path of honor, from the path
 that God has marked out for us to
 walk in; let us tread it unflinchingly
 and trust to God to preserve and de-
 liver us, or if it be His wisdom to per-
 mit our blood to be mingled with the
 blood of other martyrs in testimony of
 the truth, may we be prepared there-
 for.

God bless you all, my brethren and
 sisters, and all you with the Holy
 Spirit. God bless and comfort the
 hearts of these mourners and fill them
 with the consolation of the everlast-
 ing Gospel, in my prayer, in the name
 of Jesus. Amen.

APOSTLE MOSES THATCHER

Was the next speaker. He said: I
 hope, my brethren and sisters, to have
 your faith and prayers to assist me in
 the few remarks I may make. There

are occasions, and this seems to be one
 of them, when silence would seem
 even more impressive than words;
 there are times when it is difficult to
 express the thoughts we have in our
 hearts. Yet I know by the words
 which have been expressed by Presi-
 dent Cannon that when the Spirit of
 God dictates, much can be said to
 comfort the living. As for the dead all
 is well with them—that is, with the
 brethren who have sealed their testi-
 mony with their blood. You have
 heard what will be their glory, and to
 that testimony I will add mine. When
 we clearly understand by the light of
 the Spirit of God what martyrs for
 the truth will receive, death fails to
 create fear in our minds. It is at other
 times, when surrounded with the trials
 and temptations of life, when yielding
 to weaknesses and sin that we become
 disqualified for that high glory about
 which Pres. Cannon has been speak-
 ing. To my mind there is nothing here
 to be sorry about, save to mourn with
 the relatives and friends of the mar-
 tyred ones. Their calling and election
 has been made sure, and it will be
 said unto them—"enter thou into my
 rest; having been faithful in a few
 things you shall be made ruler over
 many." Our brethren were faithful
 unto the end, faithful unto death, to
 each, therefore, will be given a crown
 of life. Having been slain for the
 testimony of Jesus, they will be
 able to pass by the angels and the
 Gods to their inheritance of heights
 and depths, powers and principalities
 and endless lives. They have been
 valiant and true unto the end of their
 days. Stricken down by the hand of
 the assassin, yet courageously meeting
 their fate. What can be a more glori-
 ous death? When we come to look at
 the works of God and witness the
 manifestation of His power, we see
 that everything that is excellent, every-
 thing that is desirable, comes forth
 from the midst of much tribulation.
 Even the jewels of the earth, and the
 riches thereof—the minerals, the gold
 and silver for which men thirst, and
 for which they have been willing to
 sacrifice life—are brought forth out of
 what seems to us the agonies of na-
 ture. And so in regard to violent
 deaths such as our brethren have suf-
 fered. In passing through such a trial
 bravely, faithfully and truly, they have
 become jewels in the hands of God,
 and will continue to progress through-
 out the endless ages of eternity. It
 was not that they had violated the laws
 of the land; it was not that they had
 broken any law of the state in which
 they were when their lives were taken
 by the enemies of righteousness, by
 ungodly, wicked and murderous men;
 but as Pres. Cannon has truly ob-
 served, it was because they were pure,
 it was because they were righteous, it
 was because they were the servants of
 God that they were despised and
 killed. There is no hatred so intense
 as that which springs from and beget-
 ten of envy and malice. The human
 heart readily forgives and extenuates
 the crimes of the wicked. Men have
 compassion for the ungodly; but there
 was no pity in the hearts of those who
 took away the life of Jesus, of Joseph
 the Prophet, and of Hyrum his bro-
 ther. They planted their feet on the rock
 of eternal truth, and stood firm while
 the waves of prejudice, hatred and
 malice, inspired by the adversary, who
 was a murderer from the beginning,
 continued to advance until their blood
 saturated the soil. The same spirit is
 in the midst of the earth to-day. It
 has caused the taking away of the lives
 of these brethren. I remember dis-
 tinctly the impressions that were made
 upon the minds of some of our people
 when they first learned of the organi-
 zation of certain secret societies in
 the east, organized with the intention,
 no doubt, of taking life; and it is my
 strong belief and my firm opinion that
 the body which lies before us to-day
 lifeless is the result of the operations
 of the secret societies which, we have
 been forewarned, would be organized
 in the latter times. It may be that
 others will be called to wear the
 crowns of martyrs. Certainly that
 passage of Scripture which was read
 in our hearing to-day would lead us
 so to think. But what matters it to
 us? We have received the testimony
 of Jesus. We have received the light
 of the everlasting Gospel. We have
 received that which will give us influ-
 ence and power and dominion and
 glory and endless happiness. Why,
 then, should we care for the lengthen-
 ing or shortening of our days here in
 this mortal condition. If we are faith-
 ful and true to God and can die with
 the harness on as Brother John H.
 Gibbs did, it will be well with us. If
 we can meet death as he met it, while
 in the line of his duty and in the full
 love of God, our salvation will be sure.
 Had he not been successful as a
 preacher of righteousness, there would
 have been no disposition to take his
 life; but the fact that he had brought
 forty-one souls to baptism, through
 which they were made citizens of the
 Kingdom of God, created the malice
 that could only be satisfied or checked
 by the shedding of precious blood. It
 is not for us to mourn over things or-
 dained a witness that God is with us.
 The cords of Zion are being length-
 ened, her stakes are being strength-
 ened, and the Kingdom of God is gain-
 ing day by day and year by year in the
 midst of the world. Satan will con-
 test the ground inch by inch. We may
 expect to meet him in every form, at
 home as well as abroad. We should,
 therefore, be diligent and faithful,
 prudent, humble and wise. We should
 in all things be faithful to God our
 Heavenly Father. We should conse-
 crate ourselves, our time, and all we
 have unto Him, holding ourselves

ready to fulfill missions in every part
 of the habitable globe. If the world
 imagine that the killing of our breth-
 ren will have a tendency to stop the
 progress of the everlasting Gospel,
 they are much mistaken. They have
 tried that before. When Cain lifted
 up his hand and slew his brother he
 thought, no doubt, that it would stop
 the progress of righteousness. And
 so with those who slew Joseph the
 Prophet; so with those who crucified
 the Savior. It has always been the
 tactics of the adversary of righteous-
 ness, he has always sought to destroy
 life; but instead of this having a ten-
 dency to retard the progress of right-
 eousness and truth as the wicked ex-
 pect, according to the testimony of
 those who labor at home and abroad,
 it has a contrary effect. And I am
 well satisfied that the blood of these
 brethren will have in its effect the
 same result as that produced by the
 blood of Brother Standing who was
 slain in the State of Georgia. Many
 people will be led to inquire
 about a religion the advocacy
 of which costs life, and thus
 through their death many may be
 brought to a knowledge of the truth,
 and obey the Gospel that otherwise
 might not. And I feel without length-
 ening my remarks to say, God bless the
 wife and children, relatives and friends
 of the departed. It is well with him.
 We have here but the casket. The
 jewel, the spirit, is in the paradise of
 God, associating with those, who like
 him, have died martyrs to the cause of
 truth. May the peace of God rest
 down upon all the people throughout
 Zion. I pray that we may be more
 faithful, more devoted to the cause of
 truth in the future than we have been
 in the past. I can say that I am sat-
 isfied that in no sense will the taking
 away of these brethren retard the pro-
 gress of the work in the world. Our
 young Elders will not be less willing to
 go and preach the Gospel in the future
 than they have been in the past. They
 will be willing to go to the State of
 Tennessee if they are called to go
 there, or to any state in the union; for
 they fear not those who can kill the
 body, but him only who can destroy
 both body and soul in hell. This is the
 feeling of every true Latter-day Saint.
 We have no disposition to rail against
 those who did this bloody deed, for
 they are in the hands of God. Where
 He dwells they never can come worlds
 without end. They will be numbered
 among the murderers, liars, etc., out-
 side the gates of the holy city. Let
 peace rest upon the people. May the
 blessing of the Almighty abide with
 the wives and children of the departed.
 Let our hearts mourn with them as
 far as it is consistent with the lives of
 Latter-day Saints. Let us in the fu-
 ture bestow upon them, in memory of
 the departed, that attention which is
 due to them by reason of the depart-
 ure of their husbands and fathers, and
 thus show by our works that we are
 the friends of the widow and orphan.

ELDER GEORGE F. GIBBS

Next addressed the congregation. He
 said: I have desired, my brethren and
 sisters, to offer a very few remarks to
 endeavor to express some feelings that
 have crowded themselves upon my
 mind since the arrival of the body of
 my brother. I will here remark that
 from the first news that we received
 that he was among those who were
 slain nothing but a peaceful feeling has
 animated the breasts of his family and
 of his immediate friends. So in this
 respect I am delighted to say that we
 are in perfect accord with the remarks
 that President Cannon has offered.
 There is one thing, however, that has
 touched me very keenly, and that is
 the honor that has been shown to my
 brother in connection with those who
 fell with him. And here I would say
 that we are not unmindful of the fact
 that it is not because John H. Gibbs
 fell, it is not because it is the body of
 "Johnny" Gibbs, but simply because
 he was one among others that repre-
 sented the cause of God in the earth.
 All along the line until our arrival here
 great honor and respect have been
 done him. Flowers have been put up-
 on the casket. To-day, among others,
 a decoration in the shape of a
 wreath has been placed on the
 casket. A feeling—a peculiar feel-
 ing—strikes me especially when I
 see that particular decoration placed
 upon my brother's casket. I have had
 the honor of associating with the lead-
 ing men in this Church, and I have been
 in sacred places where they have been.
 One feeling only seemed to have crowd-
 ed itself upon my mind under these
 circumstances. I have asked myself:
 Was I indeed worthy to be associated
 with the leading men of our Church
 whom at last we partly know. And
 the same feeling seems to crowd itself
 upon my mind, especially when I see
 these flowers and the honor that has
 been done my brother. And the ques-
 tion I have asked myself concerning
 him is—Was he really worthy to re-
 ceive the honor of the Holy Priesthood.
 Here I would remark that from con-
 versations I have had with him I am
 only too much pleased and gratified to
 say that I do firmly believe and am
 fully satisfied that in his simple and
 humble way he merits the honor that
 is now done him in the presence
 of the First Presidency, and also
 done him by the quorums of the
 Priesthood that have formed pro-
 ceSSIONS in several places during our
 travel to this place. We are not un-
 mindful of the fact either that it has
 cost money to bring the remains of my
 brother here. We are not unmindful
 of the fact either that it has required
 courage on the part of our brethren,
 Brother Roberts and others, who assist-