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DEATH OF BISHOP HUNTER.

THE news of the death of Edward Hunter, Presiding Bishop of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, will cause a sensation among his hosts of friends, numbered by scores of thousands. By all who came in contact with him he was held in the highest estimation for his honesty, integrity and for the kindness of his genial nature. The friendly feeling with which he was regarded was not confined to his personal acquaintances, but extended throughout the entire Church, and numbers out of it. He was a man of good report, with a reproachless character, which was in exact harmony with his reputation.

Those who loved him in life will cherish his memory while his body sleeps, pending the coming call to endless life and while his spirit associates in the infernal, with the just in the intermediate state between mortality and the resurrection. They will delight to recall, in the "minds' eye," the portly form, the large benevolent face, illuminated with the clear grey eyes, while it will require but little effort to remember the kindly tones of his voice, so distinctive in their peculiar quality from those of any other we ever listened to.

There was about the Bishop a simplicity of character that was like an oasis in this world of comparative sham. Decit or guile had no place in his composition, while his powerful individuality stood out among his fellows with striking clearness. His mind was of no ordinary cast, and his marked peculiarities only served to endear him the more to his associates. It was sometimes interesting to observe his mental singularities when approached for consultation upon any subject of greater or less importance. When a matter was laid before him it was his custom to branch out on numerous other subjects, as if that on hand had passed from his mind. He would comment on objects or incidents of the moment. It would suddenly appear, however, that he had all this time been cogitating upon the main question, and after it had been matured in his mind he would suddenly plump out an opinion or decision, according to the character of the subject. The reluctance to give a hasty expression upon anything, even of an apparently trivial character, was an exhibition of a cautious nature, rendering him exceedingly discreet in all his operations.

Brother Hunter was blessed with a strong vein of humor, which was exhibited almost under all circumstances, however trying. He had a keen sense of the ludicrous, and his witty expressions often manifested the clearness of his observations, his ability as a judge of character being often displayed. His excellent humor and genial disposition appeared to warm the atmosphere around him, making his presence a source of pleasure.

His long and useful career in the Church is before the people. From the time he became identified with it, in early days, until the present, he has never flinched from the post of duty. He had an undying friendship for the Prophet Joseph, which he cherished from the moment of his first acquaintance with him. We have a distinct recollection of the Bishop telling us, something over ten years ago, that he expected to live from eight to ten years longer, do the work for his dead and then pass on to the spirit world. To use his own words: "I'll go and see my friends; Brother Joseph, Hyrum and others." Only a few weeks ago he visited St. George, where he officiated in the Temple for his ancestors who had gone before, and when he returned he felt

satisfied, having accomplished about all he could do in this life, and being ready for the summons of death to relieve him of his body that his spirit might mingle with the just, or that he might go and see his departed friends.

During the last years of his life, he was specially exercised in relation to the welfare and comfort of the "Old Folks," and took a lively interest and keen delight in the annual excursions inaugurated and conducted for their benefit and pleasure. At those gatherings, peculiar to this Territory and people, his venerable form will no more be seen by the assembled veterans, and no more will they be encouraged by his cheerful and friendly voice.

While the good man so widely respected and esteemed will be missed by the community, and especially by the bereaved family, there is a solace in the reflection that he goes hence from the troubles and ills of mortality to the enjoyment of an endless peace. He goes to reap the glorious reward of an exceptionally long and useful mortal career, leaving behind him a recorded example worthy of emulation.

We have been aware for some time past that Bishop Hunter was gradually and surely failing. His demise was natural in the strictest sense, being from a gradual decay of the physical powers, caused by the wear and tear of old age. The machinery which had lasted a decade less than a century finally refused its use for the exhibition of the faculties of the active mind within. The spirit could no longer be clogged with clay that was gradually becoming less animated, and took its flight to a sphere where it would be free from its trammels until it should take on immortality, through the powers of the resurrection, by which the redemption of Brother Hunter will be completed. While he gently faded from this life on the way to the other he suffered no pain, and went peacefully to his rest. The promise of the Lord that death should be sweet to the righteous received in his case an ample verification.

FUNERAL SERVICES OF BISHOP HUNTER.

A JUST AND FITTING TRIBUTE TO THE DECEASED.

The obsequies of the late Presiding Bishop, Edward Hunter, were solemnized yesterday afternoon, commencing at 2 o'clock, at the Salt Lake Assembly Hall. The day was bright and beautiful, in striking contrast to the few days immediately preceding, when it seemed as if the heavens themselves were weeping in sympathetic union with the occasion, and a multitude who had known the deceased and loved and revered him in life, assembled to witness and to pay the last tribute of respect to his memory, within the province of tender hearts and tearful eyes in the presence of his mortal remains.

The casket containing the body of the veteran, having been conveyed by the pall-bearers from the family residence in the Seventeenth Ward to the Assembly Hall, some time before noon, it was placed in a temporary position immediately in front of the stand occupied by the Presiding Bishopric, where it lay in state until 2 o'clock p. m., the hour at which the services were commenced, and was viewed by the vast throng which streamed for two hours through the building. The coffin was of handsome material, having the appearance of rosewood, from the sides of which depended six silver handles, while upon the lid, which was covered with floral emblems, was a silver plate bearing the inscription: "Edward Hunter, Died October 18th, 1883; Aged 90 years." Some time before 2 o'clock arrived, the Hall was thronged with eager spectators, and all available seats secured, while many who were unable to procure them, after passing down the aisle, to obtain a farewell glimpse at the calm features of the dead, were content to remain and occupy a standing position in different parts of the interior. While the congregation was being seated, the organ, under the manipulation of Brother J. J. Daynes, pealed forth solemn and impressive strains. The family and relatives of the deceased occupied

the front seats on the central row, immediately facing the Bishop's stand, upon which the casket was placed a short time before the opening of the meeting.

There were present upon the stand, of the First Presidency, John Taylor and Jos. F. Smith; of the quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Wilford Woodruff, Erastus Snow, Franklin D. Richards, Brigham Young, Albert Carrington, George Teasdale and Heber J. Grant; of the Counselors to the Apostles, D. H. Wells; Patriarch of the Church, John Smith; of the First Seven Presidents of the Seventies, Wm. W. Taylor, Abraham H. Cannon and Seymour B. Young; of the Presiding Bishopric, Leonard W. Hardy and Robert T. Burton; of the Presidency of the Stake, Angus M. Cannon and Jos. E. Taylor; of the Presidency of the High Priests' Quorum, Elias Smith, Edward Sneigrove and Elias Morris; besides many other prominent Elders. The Pallbearers, Bishops Jacob Weller, Alexander McRae, Wm. Thorn, Elijah F. Sheets, M. Atwood, John Tingey, John Sharp, Joseph Warburton and Orson F. Whitney, had seats reserved for them to the left of the Bishops' stand.

The congregation was called to order at the appointed time by President John Taylor, who announced as the introductory hymn:

"Weep, weep not for me, Zion," etc.

which was rendered by the Tabernacle choir, under the leadership of Brother E. Beesley. Apostle Erastus Snow offered up the opening prayer.

The choir then sang the hymn commencing:

"Mourn not the dead who peaceful lay Their wearied bodies down."

PRES. WILFORD WOODRUFF was the first speaker. They were called, he said, that day to pay their last respects to one of God's noblemen. If the Lord had ever had any noblemen on the face of the earth, Bishop Edward Hunter was certainly numbered among them. His life had been preserved not only to see three score years and ten, but four score years and ten, and almost the half of that life had been spent in the Church and Kingdom of God on the earth. He had spent his time associated with the Prophet Joseph Smith, who laid the foundation of this Church, and was with him, as it were, up to the time of his death, and assisted in his burial; was his right hand man, in one sense of the word, through all his tribulations, persecutions and afflictions before his death. And he (the speaker) was firmly of the opinion that today he was the happiest man there was in that congregation. He believed that Bishop Hunter was now mingling with those men with whom he associated here in the flesh, in the midst of trials and tribulations in days that are past and gone, and personally the speaker could scarcely see any ground to mourn over his departure. He had lived to a great age. He had finished his work and had done it well. He had seemed to be moved upon for a length of time before his death to do all he could both for the living and the dead. He had several times visited the Temple at St. George and administered for his dead as far as he had been made acquainted with them; and he had continued to labor almost to the day of his death. The last time that the speaker saw the Bishop was on Friday last, just before starting for Cache Valley. He went in and shook hands with him in the office, and he then appeared cheery, cheerful and happy, and he scarcely expected that he was going to take his departure so soon. In the midst of life however we were in the midst of death. But with regard to Bishop Hunter he did not know that he need spend much time in talking about him. His history was before God, angels and men. His history was written in the hearts and minds of the people of the Church of God. He had been a pure man, a virtuous man, a righteous man, and he had finished his labor with joy and rejoicing here on the earth. The speaker was satisfied to leave him in the hands of the Lord. When he heard of his death, the first thought that struck him was in respect to the joy, the happiness he would have in meeting Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball, George A. Smith and scores and hundreds of the Latter-day Saints with whom he had associated here in the flesh. A man who lived the life of a Saint, it mattered not in what age or generation he might live—a man who possessed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who re-

ceived the Holy Priesthood, who, honored that Priesthood, and who remained true and faithful unto death, became a member of the Church of the First Born, and he had promises given unto him that we could not comprehend; our eyes had not seen, our ears had not heard, it had never entered into the heart of man to conceive the blessings God had in store for such men. As the revelations said, those who keep his commandments, those who receive the Holy Priesthood and magnify it, all that the Father hath shall be given unto him, and this is the oath and covenant which he could not break, neither could it be moved. These, however, were principles they could not fully comprehend in the flesh; they were beyond the comprehension of mortal man. Nevertheless, there was sufficient revealed to show us that there was glory, immortality and eternal life on the other side of the veil for the righteous. The speaker thought the Saints [who were still living—for it was very few that ever lived to the age of 90 years as Bishop Hunter had done—ought to be admonished by the scene that was now before them. It should be an admonition to himself and to his brethren whose hairs were gray, and to all who were ripening, as it were for the grave, that what their hands found to do they should do it with all their might; that whatever labors they had to perform here on the earth should be done at once and not put off until a more convenient day. They should be admonished by such an event as was before them that day to perform the duties devolving upon them. As a people they were called to do a great work in the earth. No generation of men had ever been called to do a greater work. The Lord had established His Church upon the earth, and He had sustained it from the day of its organization until the present time. Many of its early members—including those who laid the foundation of this work—had been on the other side of the veil for a whole generation, as we count time, and others would pass away when their work was closed. Bishop Hunter had now passed away.

The speaker had known him for many years. And he had known him to pass through some heavy trials—in connection with the Prophet—in Nauvoo, as also did President Taylor and others. But up to the hour of the death of the Prophet, Bishop Hunter stood by him and assisted him as far as lay in his power. All the way through he was faithful. His gold, his silver, and his earthly wealth had been spent and devoted in the early days of the church to its support, and the sustenance and assistance of the Prophet of God, and of those who were immediately connected with the cares and labors of the church. For this he would receive his reward. It would be a great reward, and a glorious one. The speaker concluded by bearing his testimony to the virtue, the honesty and integrity of the deceased. He had been true and faithful to the last, and he felt to say "God bless him, may his tabernacle sleep in peace a few days," but it would be but a little time until the trump of God would call him forth out of the tomb clothed with glory, immortality and eternal life, to remain with the faithful to the endless ages of eternity; and all the blessings that Joseph Smith and other men had sealed upon his head,—these he took with him; his gold and silver, his wealth and property—little or much—he left behind. The speaker prayed God to bless his family, his wives, his sons and daughters and all associated with him. He hoped his sons would follow their father's good example,—as the sons of good men should in the house of Israel—that he might claim them in the morning of the resurrection, and partake with him of the glory and power of God reserved for the righteous.

APOSTLE F. D. RICHARDS expressed gratification in the opportunity afforded him of saying a few words upon this occasion. The life and character of Bishop Hunter were so well known in Israel that his fame and memory were like a great light among the people. The speaker had known him from the day of his gathering with the Saints in Nauvoo; and in his life-time had heard him speak of the Prophet Joseph's first visit to his residence in Pennsylvania, when on his way to Washington to present the grievances of the Saints to the Government, and how he esteemed him as a great and mighty prophet, his words taking hold of him as if

by force, captivating his whole nature. His whole life, from those early days had been an exemplification of the fact that he had given himself unreservedly to the cause of truth which he espoused. Although a man of wealth, of influence and position in society where he lived before he heard the Gospel, when the truth saluted his ears he received it for the love of it, wealth and position having no power over him to blind his eyes, nor to hinder the light thereof from shining upon his understanding. And those who knew him in Nauvoo could testify how cheerfully he imparted his means to the Prophet to aid him when embarrassed by the attacks of his enemies. Bishop Hunter was a man of a generous heart and noble disposition; he was, as many well know, the people's friend, and earned for himself a place in the hearts of the people that few men had. The speaker referred to the readiness and willingness in which the deceased accepted the doctrines of the Church as they were revealed from time to time, and the consistency of his life as being in harmony with the same. He congratulated the bereaved family as being a blessed family, in that they had such a husband and father to go before them. They could look forward to him, and he back upon them, and say, he had gone to prepare a place for them, that when they were called they might be also. A man's reflection brings home to the comforting thought that the one who go behind the veil have many more relatives and friends than here. This serves so to soften our sorrow we feel at the temporary loss by death of the society of those to whom we are ardently attached in this life. He hoped the sons would imitate the noble example that had been left them by their honored father, and was pleased to know that already some were filling positions of honor and trust. The speaker referred to the intimate and cordial relations that existed between himself and the deceased, and said he had felt for some time that he was, as some say, "living on borrowed time," he having lived the measure of his days and lived such a good old age. He had passed away in peace honored and respected, and his name would ever live in the memories of the Saints of God.

APOSTLE ERASTUS SNOW said he was permitted to visit the house of the late Bishop Hunter at his residence in Chester County, Pa., in the year 1840. From that time he had been intimately acquainted with him and had associated with him more or less in the latter part of his life, through which he had passed. He must say that very few men his acquaintance in life had so thoroughly maintained their integrity, discharging their duties with fidelity and faithfulness, with credit to themselves, and with honor to God, as had Bishop Edward Hunter. He felt to endorse the remarks that had been made by President Woodruff, that he was one of God's noblemen. He did not feel any spirit of mourning. He did not feel any spirit of death on this occasion. He visited him on the afternoon of Tuesday two hours before his death. Though feeble he conversed with considerable freedom, referring to things past and present; and although fast wearing away he (the speaker) hardly looked for his departure so soon. It was not until the next morning that he heard he had already gone. He fell asleep. He did not die. There was no death connected with it. There was little or no pain. He conversed with him up till almost the last breath, with a fair degree of vigor, and his words clear, asking and answering questions up to within two or three minutes of the time that he breathed his last, and fell asleep as quiet and calm as an infant in its mother's arms. He (Brother Snow) had, to-day, in viewing his body, that he almost envied his honored position. Not that he desired to shirk the responsibilities of the present life, but depart until his work was finished, but when it pleased God and his work was finished, he should greatly rejoice in being permitted, if God so willed, to die as Bishop Hunter had died. If there was any one thing more than another that he had desired, it was that he might not outlive his usefulness. When he could no longer glorify God in this world and serve Him in the midst of His people in building up His kingdom on the earth, he desired to depart speedily, and that his works might follow. For he felt as Bishop Hunter had always felt in his life,