

THE FUNERAL.

The Body of Apostle Snow in State at the Tabernacle.

CHASTE AND APPROPRIATE CHARACTER OF THE DECORATIONS.

THE SERVICES AND CORTEGE.—LAD TO REST.

From shortly after eight o'clock this morning until noon, when the service over the remains began, an almost continuous stream of people passed across the west end of the Tabernacle, where the body of Apostle Erastus Snow lay in state. Many thousands availed themselves of the opportunity to take a last look at the face of the honored dead.

In entering the building one could not help being struck with the chaste and beautiful appearance of the drapery and floral decorations. They were confined to the casket and its surroundings, and the stands of the Priesthood in front of which the body was placed. The large outer receptacle in which the casket proper was laid was covered with snowy cloth, formed into six panels—two on each side and one on each end—artistically drawn in at the centre to a large white button. The upper edge was embellished by a running line of evergreens dotted at appropriate distances with white flowers. The casket, which was of natural polished wood, was covered with floral emblems of exquisite design. The four stands were all dressed in white, the draping having been arranged with marked taste and skill. The snowy ground of the white fabric was relieved by floral wreathing, bouquets and emblems, there being four vases containing these beautiful products of nature upon the sacramental table and two upon each of the other three stands above it.

Besides these decorative embellishments there was on the sacramental table probably one of the most beautiful of all the emblems. It was furnished by Scandinavian Saluts. It is in the shape of a tombstone, around which are lovely flowers, with a floral base of appropriate proportions. In the centre of this floral frame work is the following inscription, printed on in gilt letters upon white silk, indicative of the deep appreciation by the Scandinavian people of the fact that Elder Snow was the Apostle who, by the authority of his high office, opened the door of the Gospel in that part of the world and established there the great mission which has flourished and expanded from that time to the present:

"Erastus Snow, Apostle to the Scandinavians. Token of respect, in behalf of 50,000 members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who have embraced the Truth in Denmark, Sweden and Norway, as the fruits of the Gospel door being opened in those countries in 1850-52, by our beloved and esteemed Apostle, Erastus Snow."

The effect of these decorations as a whole, as viewed from the middle of the auditorium, was remarkably attractive, the beauty of their appearance being enhanced by the comparatively sombre surroundings of the stand. Taken as a whole the embellishments struck the beholder as a bright oasis, the immediate environments of the body of our beloved departed brother being entirely relieved from that gloomy aspect which is too often a concomitant of such occasions.

By the time the hour had arrived for opening the services, the main part of the vast auditorium was well filled. The band played a solemn dirge preliminary to the opening of the services.

On the stand were Apostles Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards, John Henry Smith, H. J. Grant and John W. Taylor; Patriarch John Smith; Presidents Seymour B. Young and A. H. Cannon, of the Seventies; Angus M. Cannon of Salt Lake Stake, and A. O. Smoot of Utah Stake; and other prominent brethren.

The congregation was called to order by Apostle Lorenzo Snow, and the choir sang:

Mid scenes of confusion and creature complaints,
How sweet to my soul is communion with Saints.

Apostle Franklin D. Richards offered the opening prayer:
The choir sang:

Who are these arrayed in white,
Brighter than the noonday sun?

APOSTLE LORENZO SNOW addressed the congregation. He read the 13th verse of the 14th chapter of Revelations:

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.

We meet upon this occasion to show our respect for our departed brother, and also for his family and friends. His demise was unexpected to most of the Saints, unlooked-for and most unwelcome. We cannot say that Brother Erastus Snow is dead. The house in which he dwelt lies there in that casket; but

he has only left it for a season. He is not dead. He lives—he lives more effectually than ever before. We feel to mourn because we cannot see him, and associate closely with him, whom we have learned to love; and we feel that we now meet, in his departure, a heavy loss. In this we are not deceived. We feel that we need his counsel and the benefit of his great wisdom gained by a long life of experience. But our loss is his gain. Were he here he could say, with the Apostle Paul: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." This he could truthfully say; and the blessings I have read in the verse from John's Revelations will surely follow him.

In the same chapter we are told that John saw an angel fly in the midst of heaven with the fulness of the Gospel, which we have received; and through so doing, we have received much wisdom and knowledge of things which astonish the world when we speak of them. We have learned that, in Temples, we are able to form ties which are not dissolved at death, but which reach into eternity; sacred ties which bind families together for time and eternity. Brother Erastus has formed these ties, and now he has gone to another world his works will follow him. The labors he has performed and the associations he has established here, he will derive the benefit of in the sphere to which he has gone. The society of his wives and children he will enjoy there. Well might a holy angel utter the words that were spoken to John the Revelator, and command the "to be written," "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord." Those words are most important to be written for the guidance and comfort of the children of men.

Our Brother Erastus now rests from the arduous labors in which he spent the greater part of his life. He can now see that the promises made to him are secured to him, and that no power can deprive him of them. His wives and children will follow him, and the blessings that have been sealed upon him he will receive.

There is an indelible feeling on the present occasion. We have not dressed our stand in mourning, but in light, signifying the purity of the individual, of the beloved brother whose labors on earth are completed. He has gone to be crowned with eternal glory. Had he strayed from the path of truth, then we might well have decorated these stands with that which represents grief. We feel that for the time being we have met with a great loss, yet it is a great glory to him. When his eyes first saw this valley, dedicated to the Saints, he waved his hat and shouted "Hallelujah! Hosanna!" I can imagine that when he passed the veil and saw Joseph and the others, he could shout hosanna with a thousand-fold greater joy.

I cannot express my feelings on this occasion. I ask God to bless the family of Brother Erastus, that they may have strength to pass through the fiery ordeal as successfully as he has done, that when they go to the spirit world their prospects may be as bright as his. May God bless and prosper the Latter-day Saints in the work which He has assigned them.

PRESIDENT A. O. SMOOT, of the Utah Stake of Zion, was the next speaker. He said I do not recollect when I have felt more lonesome than I have done since the announcement of the demise of Brother Erastus Snow. I formed his acquaintance before he was 18 years old.

I heard him speak in the Kirtland Temple when he was a boy. He was then filled with the Holy Ghost. My acquaintance has been close with him since then, and he was actuated throughout with the same Spirit. I have crossed the plains more than once with him; have known him as a legislator, and in many capacities. In all his labors he was inspired by the Holy Ghost, and I have regarded him as one of the chiefest of the Apostles—a safe counselor in every position. There is no man whose society I have more greatly enjoyed than that of Erastus Snow, and I know of none that have been more powerful in council—that commanded the attention which he did. We mourn his loss. When his death was announced to me I could not restrain my feelings, and said that we could not well spare him, for he was a strong man; few were stronger than he for the guidance of the Saints. Yet the Lord knows better than we, and has taken him. His health has not been the best for some years. I remember when his wife was on her deathbed, he bade her farewell, never expecting to see her in this life. He there said he had lived in the Church from boyhood, and had never failed to perform his duty, and if all his family had been prostrate, he would have gone to fulfill the mission to which he had been called. If all the Elders of Israel could say as much, Zion would be stronger than she is today; but we are prone to have excuses for failing to perform our duties. I have a testimony that God has accepted the labors of Brother Erastus, and he may be as useful to us where he is as he would be with us. He will be a power behind the veil, with the quorum he has gone to join. I expect thousands of the Saints feel as I do today. But I say the Lord's will be done, and may He raise up other faithful men to take his place. May peace rest on his family and all Israel, and may they emulate his example.

APOSTLE JOHN W. TAYLOR said, The night Brother Snow died,

Brother John Henry Smith and I were in Gunnison. We had been to the telegraph office and failed to get any information of his condition. We returned, and I was reading a book, when the Spirit of the Lord said to me Brother Erastus is dead. I turned to Brother Smith and told him. When a man of courage was wanted to go to Northern Scandinavia, Brother Snow was called and performed the great labor. He had fallings, but they were few. When a man who would stand by his post was wanted to go to Southern Utah, Erastus Snow was chosen. When, in more recent years, a man of wisdom and experience was wanted in Mexico, he was selected. He has always been with the outposts. He is as good an example as there is today in the Church and Kingdom of God. The Lord knows him, and he has taught his children to follow him. May God grant that we may all be as successful as he has been.

PRESIDENT ANGUS M. CANNON

said: I do not know that I can control my feelings on the present occasion. I have known Brother Snow forty-five years, and know his idleness to the cause of truth. I do not know a wiser or more faithful man. He was a wise counselor, who would stand at his post regardless of consequences. We have lost a mighty man in Israel, who will be a tower of strength in working with Brother Joseph. May the peace of God be with him, and when he is called forth by the trump of God may we be worthy to meet him. May the peace of God attend his wives and children, that they may follow his example. May God be with us in our bereavement, and raise up others who will maintain the rule of God.

COUNSELOR DANIEL H. WELLS

said, I feel that Israel has lost a great man in Brother Erastus Snow's death. My first recollection of him was concerning a speech he made in Missouri in defense of his brethren. It was as capable a speech as was ever uttered by a lawyer, though he had never studied law. From his early youth he has been an earnest advocate of the Gospel. He went forth at the age of fifteen to preach the truth. He has filled his mission with credit to himself and honor to God. A prince has fallen this day, but he has gone where he will still be useful, to labor with his brethren who have gone before. May it be as well with us as it is with him. If it is, our meeting will be joyful. When we meet our friends on the other shore we will know them, and will preserve our identity in the other world, improved and glorified, as one of old said, into the likeness of Jesus Christ, who is our elder brother. If we are faithful to the end, we will inherit the mansions prepared for the righteous. Jesus is our great exemplar, and prepared the way. How comforting his words are to his faithful disciples. For brother Snow we need not mourn; we experience the loss. But his example is not lost. May we emulate it. His words and life will be remembered in Israel forever. May God bless those on whom the loss falls—those who are called to mourn. We feel the departure of friends, and tears give ease to a burdened heart. We have a hope in the Gospel behind the veil. God doeth all things well, and may He keep us in His holy keeping as He has our brother, that we may receive an inheritance with the righteous.

ELDER ANDREW JENSON

said: Since I was about four years of age I can remember the name of Erastus Snow. I was born in the country where he introduced the Gospel, and closely connected with the name of the Prophet Joseph was that of Erastus Snow, who brought the Gospel to us. I first became acquainted with him in Copenhagen in 1873, when I was on my first mission. I labored under his direction in getting out certain books. I loved him as a son loves a father, and my heart is too full for utterance. It was under his advice that I took hold anew in my labors. I met many who knew him on his first mission to Scandinavia, and all speak of him in terms of high respect. He came, a stranger to our language, but through the gift of tongues he acquired a knowledge of it in a remarkably short time. He was called there, and founded a more fruitful mission than any other now known. Not less than 45,000 souls have been baptized there, and 26,000 or 27,000 have emigrated, most of them remaining true to the Gospel. This must have been gratifying to him. I believe I echo the sentiment of thousands of my countrymen in speaking words of praise of Brother Snow. We have lost a valiant man. May we remember the wise counsels and important instructions of this noble servant of God.

APOSTLE FRANKLIN D. RICHARDS

said, I would rather be on the seat of the mourners than try to express my feelings to-day. I first saw Brother Erastus in 1839, when the Saints had been driven from Missouri. They were finding an asylum near Quincy, Illinois. Common humanity caused the people there to receive the Saints. At this time it became desirable for the people of Quincy to know something of "Mormonism." Brother Erastus Snow was selected as the Elder to deliver a course of lectures in the court house at Quincy, on the subject. There I first saw him, and wondered at his marvelous gift in explaining the scriptures. By his sound reasoning he shed forth upon the minds of the

people that Spirit which rested on him, and they welcomed the Saluts in the hour of need. Brother Erastus had, shortly before, when arrested in Missouri, so ably defended himself that his talent was a marvel to the attorneys, and effected his discharge, and enabled him to be of great assistance to his brethren.

It is forty years ago next February since Brother Erastus, with Brother Lorenzo Snow, Chas. C. Rich and myself were ordained to the Apostleship, in the Old Fort. Since then I have been with him a great deal. He had wonderful tenacity, and was a most capable man in a hard place—being sound and courageous. The Lord has been with him. I have always found in him an example worthy of imitation. I feel to endorse all the good that has been said of him. May God bless all his family, that they may become a mighty race. The children of Brother Erastus number thirty-six, and his grand-children sixty-five—one hundred and one in all. I feel to prophesy in the name of the Lord that there shall be no end to his increase and dominion. May we be able to rejoice with him hereafter. He has been the twelfth Apostle to depart since we left Nauvoo. Joseph has gone to the spirit world as a Prophet, and they have gone as Apostles, to carry on the great work there. May we live that our works may follow us as they will Brother Erastus Snow.

APOSTLE HEBER J. GRANT

said: I am pleased to add my testimony regarding Brother Erastus Snow. I know of no man who has labored more faithfully and energetically. None were too insignificant for his notice. He took an interest in all. There is no man whose life is a better example for the youth of Israel. My ideal of an Apostle was Erastus Snow. When I was called as an Apostle I prayed that the same spirit of self-sacrifice might inspire me. No man can say anything but good of him. He has been a Latter-day Saint in very deed, and has gained an exaltation in the celestial kingdom of God. It was intended to read the last sermon he delivered, at a young men's meeting, April 8, 1888, but there is not time. He then said:

"The Lord keeps His own counsels in these things, and it is not given to us to know and understand the day and the hour when the Son of Man will come; but it is for us always to be prepared, and to so live that we shall be prepared for Him when He does come. And whether we lay down our bodies before the coming of the Son of Man or not, it mattereth not so that we have filled our days with usefulness, are prepared to come forth when the trump shall sound and call forth the dead. I do most heartily endorse those sentiments which have been expressed concerning the dead who die in the Lord. They do not taste of death. It seems to me that there is no death, but they are moving on to life, life eternal."

Brother Erastus is moving on to life eternal, and may we follow in his footsteps.

I am requested to read a few words written by

APOSTLE MOSES THATCHER.

Erastus Snow is dead! How few even among Latter-day Saints—how few indeed, of his immediate associates, comprehended his worth, or fully appreciated his generous, unselfish disposition.

He was great, because good. An intellectual giant, yet humble as a child. Now, and in years to come, as questions of magnitude affecting the public weal arise, the void caused by his departure will seem fathomless, as the grief at his loss will be intense. As the load he carried without a murmur settles upon others already heavily burdened with accumulated responsibilities, how vividly they sense the taking away of one ever ready—always willing to put a lifting shoulder to the wheel. In the future, when dark clouds of persecution are riven by the fierce lightnings of hate, and wrathful storms beat upon defenseless heads, who can fill the place of Erastus Snow? In times of peace, when the allurements of a deceitful ease threatened danger in the path of unsuspecting youth, who will be able to supplement the wise counsel that hath laid the foundation for many a prosperous, pure and patient life? To whom now can the young go for a chart to guide them over life's troubled sea, with the same confident assurance that they have experienced in going to him?

Into what listening ear and sympathetic heart shall the troubled and poor their story of distress? Who now will console the forsaken, or comfort the grief-stricken, as he has done? The poor came to him freely, and the sick and weary laid their burdens upon his shoulders without hesitation. Who will bear them now?

As the knowledge that Erastus Snow is dead settles into the feelings of the people, the fountains of emotion will break forth, and silent tears will moisten many a spot where for hours he has stood patiently listening to piteous tales, while incipient disease sowed the seeds of death in his unshrinking body; for when the sorrows of others overshadowed him, Erastus Snow was wholly oblivious to self.

Regardless of consequences, he has stood for hours exposed to the night winds of a Southern desolation, more treacherous than the snows and frosts of a northern clime. While thus ex-

posed, thoughtless persons have poured into his sympathetic ear tales of trouble as if his compassionate heart could never fail to respond.

But now he is dead, and the drafts of friends and the demands of enemies must each go to protest. His mortal career is ended. For the cause of his taking away we must search amid the burning sands and gleaming volcanic rocks of Southern Utah, where has been spent the best years of his life. Many a weary night he has sought repose while exhausted nature—sweating at every pore—was chilled by the winds sweeping the cactus plains of Mexico or sighing through the pines of the Sierra Madre. To those who, in their misguided enforcement of the law, have deprived him of the consolation and comforts of home, what shall the harvest be? Under trying circumstances he recently endured a severe operation upon his eyes. Exhausted by the pain inflicted and while trying to rest in a room and bed to which he was unused, he contracted a severe cold that resulted in his death.

Not long since a brother in deep affliction exclaimed, "I would give more this moment to see Erastus Snow than any man living, for he could tell me what to do, in this hour of supreme trial."

Measure his life's work, and how beautiful and perfect in every part is now in the presence of death seemed. As husband and father, tender and true, affectionate and just! As friend and brother, devoted and unchangeable! As statesman and scholar, profound and farseeing. As defender of constitutional liberty, valiant and consistent. As a servant of God, faithful, devoted, true. Magnanimous to enemies, generous to friends. Unswerving in life, trusting and confident in death. Such was Erastus Snow. Let the fingers of fame weave garlands with which to entwine the brow of battle-begrimed heroes! Let ambition sing from monumental piles the praises of those who in life wrought carnage and death; but for us, we will keep fresh in our hearts the memory of the good and true whose mission was devoted to life, not death.

He has left us to join those gone before. Let us emulate his works, follow his example, and when thrones shall totter and kingdoms fall, joyfully in his mansion home shall greet him "wives, children and friends."

APOSTLE JOHN HENRY SMITH

said: It seems almost impossible for me to sufficiently control my feelings to speak to you. The name of Erastus Snow has been familiar to me from my earliest remembrance. It has been my privilege to live in his home and associate with him and his family. He has also been my privilege to mingle with him in councils, and in such places as try men's souls. I have never known him for one moment to doubt or hesitate in regard to the work God had imposed upon him. In his home, gentle and affectionate; prudent in his example; consistent and wise in his language; loving and kind, and as just as God made mortal man. In traveling with him I have often wondered at the inspiration which guided him, especially in talking to the young. His words of counsel fell in the kindest accents; his rebukes were administered in fearlessness, and were followed by kindness. He possessed a judicial mind, and had he followed the profession of the law, none would have excelled him for the greatness of his wisdom or the justice of his decisions. God was with him. I have seen His power manifest in him. Brother Erastus has worthily performed the labors of an Apostle. He was among the foremost in toil, usually working till the early hours of the morning. When it was found necessary to settle the desert soil of Southern Utah, Erastus Snow was called, and labored not in the midst of difficulties. Frequently, when his body was racked with pain, he would go into the fields and counsel with the people. He was also father of the settlements in Arizona. There is no tribute that is not due to Erastus Snow. A preacher of the Gospel, he was eloquent; as a colonizer, true; as a legislator, wise; as a counselor, fearless; a friend, unswerving; as a father, he excelled in love and integrity. I have looked on him as one of the brightest of earth's sons, and had he remained in his native state, he would have shone in the councils of the nation. May the blessings of heaven rest on his numerous family and may we say of them, they were worthy descendants of a noble sire, who was devoted to the work of God.

Apostle Smith then read the following communication from

PRESIDENT WILFORD WOODRUFF.

Beloved Brethren and Sisters: Once again, in the providences of the Almighty, Israel mourns the loss of one of its mightiest sons. Death seldom comes at a time we deem opportune; and if we, in our blindness, were permitted to judge, we should certainly decide that the present, with its trials, its perplexities and its sorrows, is no time to take from our midst men of counsel, of wisdom, of faith and of judgment, such as was our beloved brother, Elder Erastus Snow, whose obsequies we this day solemnize. But He who doeth all things well has been pleased to take to Himself His servant, and we can simply bow the head and acknowledge His hand in all things, and with one of old exclaim: "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord."