DISCOURSE

DELIVERED BY

BLDER GEO. Q. CANNON,

In the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, on Sunday Morning, August 3, 1879.

REPORTED BY JOHN IRVINE.

I will read a portion of the 23rd chapter of St. Matthew commencing at the 34th verse:

"And, wherefore, behold I send unto you prophets, and wise men, them shall ye scourge in your synagogues and persecute them from city to city; that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias, son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar,"

There is another portion of Scripfound in the sixth chapter of the Revelations of St. John:

"And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the

earth?" Very unexpectedly I have been called upon to make a few remarks to you this morning. Naturally I would prefer to sit still and to reflect upon the sad event that has called us together. It is plain from | tion. the reading of these passages of Scripture that you have heard, that this respect the Latter-day Saints prie-thood, and in all solemnity, witness before God and before all should they will make innocent blood—the blood of the occupy a unique position in the that God has spoken from the hea- men of the truth of the testimony fied until there shall be servants of God, of the prophets, of midst of the inhabitants of the vens, that God has revealed the ever- that he bore. Others have done ment made, and the gully the wise men, of the scribes, all earth. Men wonder very frequent- lasting gospel, that God has estab- likewise. those who have the testimony of ly at the testimonies that we bear. lished his church in its ancient Jesus, who are the bearers of the They express surprise that a people power and in its ancient purity, mournful occasion to pay the last justice. But it will be a word of God,-when shed wicked- so few in number as we are, should that God has endowed man to go rites, to offer the last testimony of traordinary thing if such ly, remains as a heavy debt to be imagine that there is so much im- forth and administer in the ordi- respect to the remains of one who the result. Not but what atoned for at some period by the portance attending the testimonies nances of life and salvation as in like manner laid down his the Governor is an unit inhabitants of the earth. Also that that we bear, or the gospel that we ancient days. What is the duty of life for the truth, one of the many and, so far as I am any in the days of John the Revelator, preach. But it is a remarkable the inhabitants of the earth under who have been slain for the testi- with him, would to every one of the apostles of the Lord, in fact, abundantly sustained in the such circumstances? the visions which he saw it was history of God's dealings with the made manifest that there were yet children of men, that he does not there is no voice from God. You anything wrong in the testimony influences at work it more lives to be offered up for the hold mankind guiltless because travel throughout the whole of hat he declared when he liveu? stronger than the influence cause of truth before the blood that there are only a few who are the Christendom and there is an un- Was it wrong to call upon men to Governor, there are had been shed could be avenged oracles of truth in their midst and broken silence reigning between repent of their sins, to be baptised harder to conquer than upon these that dwelt upon the who have the authority to porclaim heaven and earth; no voice to dis- for a remission of them, to have else that can be men earth. It doubtless seemed strange that truth. If there was but one pro- turb the solemnity of eternity. Go hands laid upon them for the recep- there are hundreds, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem phet on the face of the earth, and visit all the different churches, and tion of the Holy Ghosi? Was it thousands, of people " when Jesus said unto them that he had no followers, but stood alone all the ministers if the various de- wrong to entreat men to forsake sin that in killing the " all the righteous blood that had in the midst of the nations of the nominations, and talk to them who and to lead better lives, to be more they are doing God's service been shed in pastigenerations, from earth, his warnings would be fol- profess to be the followers of Jesus pure, more holy, to live near unto we hate them for this the blood of righteous Abel to lowed by terrible results if they Carist; ask them, "Do you know the Lord, to seek knowledge from are to be pitied. Men wo Zacharias, son of Barachias, should were disregarded by those who anything about God? Has God God, to contend for the faith that in such feelings carry be required of that generation. heard them. The Lord does not communicated his mind and will was once delivered to the Saints? in their own breasts There were reasons for this which look upon men according to their to you?" and the universal answer If these things were wrong, then ment, and they will he well understood. There are rea- numbers; the importance of his from all sects is "No, revelation our brother whose remains are be- still more severe put sons existing now and that will work and his dealings with the has ceased, God no longer speaks to fere us was guilty of wrong. This fore they get through continue to exist and operate, why children of men is not to be mea- man; we depend upon his written was the extent of his offence and the blood of those who have been sured by the number of those who word in the Bible for our knowledge no more. He endeavored to per- we embraced this Gapel, slain for the word of God and the adhere to the principles that he of God. We are divided into sects, suade men to lead purer, holier you who were old enough testimony of Jesus in ancient days, proclaims. When Joseph Smith | we are split up into parties, we lives, and proclaimed that the days | prehend it, doubtless 1001 should be avenged upon some gen- stood alone, when he had only two have all our own way of Worship- of God's judgment were near at sideration all the conseque eration in the future, from the time or three followers, and he declared ping God, but there is no voice band. He went forth to declare might follow; those will that John spake and wrote the re- unto those by whom he was sur- from God, there has been no reve- these principles, filled with zeal, old enough, or who velation that he had received. rounded that God had spoken to lation from God to disturb the filled with good desires, exemplary Jesus said when he was upon the him from the heavens, that God silence of ages, since the death of in his life, pure in his conversation, perience enough upon the earth: "And this is the condemna- had revealed the everlasting gospel | the Apostles, and our knowledge | the admiration of all who knew to see and understand who tion; that light is come into the in its ancient purity and power, concerning the plans and purposes him, the joy of his father's house sults of the espousal of world and men love darkness that God had sent his holy angels of God is derived from the Bible." hold, an example to all his asso- are likely to be. It cost rather than light." They were held to him, and that those angels had This being the case, then, what is clates of the same years, and even his life. It cost the gree to a strict accountability after light | laid their hands upon his head, and | the duty of the inhabitants of the | to those older than himself, a young | of his apostles their live was revealed. The generation in upon the head of Oliver Cowdery, earth when a man comes as Joseph man of whom we all had great every prophet almost the which he lived were held to a and ordained them to the everlast- Smith did, and as the Elders of this hopes, whose future we thought his life for proclaiming stricter accountability than any ing Priesthood, his testimony was Church are doing, proclaiming the was bright. In reading his letters, It has cost the best li preceding generation, because he as binding upon those who heard truths which I have alluded to? in listening to the accounts of his Church and this general himself, the Son of God, was in it as if millions of men had testified Why, they being in ignorance of labors, in hearing from his co-labor- the foundation of this their midst, performing mighty to the same truths. His testimony God, they having no revelation ers, we could not help feeling grati- have been mobbed, we works, preaching the gospel of the was binding from the moment that rom God, they not having heard fied. We indulged in bright anticikingdom in its purity and in its he commenced to bear it to those by the voice of angels, they being split pations for his future, not because power, and communicating unto whom he was surrounded, and the up into parties and sects, and divid of his birth, not because his parents have been cast out as them the mind and will of heaven. accountability of the people who ed and quarrelling respecting the were rich, not because of any extra- no crime, there is me, Every generation who have the listened to him and heard his voice, points of dectrine which Christ re ordinary talent which he possessed, men could be guilty privilege of hearing the pure gospel and heard his testimony, began | vealed-they being in this position | not because of any earthly advan- not been accused of of Jesus preached in its fulness are from the moment that he opened should humble themselves and ask tages, but because in his youth he know how falsely a held to a similar accountability. his mouth and bore testimony of God, in the name of Jesus, and in humbled himself before God and little foundation we Their position is different to that these things. And so it has been mighty prayer to reveal unto attained a knowledge concerning charged with these of the generations who do not have from that day unto this, wherever them whether the testimony the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and, is part of the results in that privilege. The generations the Elders of this Church have of these men who come with burning with zeal, he had a heart- to meet in espousing that intervened between the time gone and have borne testimony to this new revelation be true felt desire to proclaim the great The man that holds " that Zacharias lived and the com- the inhabitants of the earth re- or false. That is the duty of every truths which God had revealed to that values it more than ing of the Son of Man in the flesh, specting the work that God has living soul upon the face of the him, to a fallen world and tried to is unworthy of the were not held to the same strict ac- commenced-from that very mo- earth who hears the testimony of save the children of men from the value house, if we value countability as the cotemporaries of ment the condemnation of the God's servants concerning this pit into which they were likely to we value good name, if we the Sawler Who were likely to we value good name, if we the condemnation of the God's servants concerning this pit into which they were likely to we value good name, if we then savler were likely to be a servant of the condemnation of the condemnat the favior. Why was this? Be- generation commenced if they did truth, and there never has been, be engulsed. The same spirit that perry, if we value self, if we cause they did not have the truth not above t cause they did not have the truth not obey these testimonies and from the time that Joseph Smith animated the breast of the Savior even life itself more than in its follows revealed unto them: in its fulness revealed unto them; warnings. This seems to some made his first proclamation until animated the breast of Joseph the truth we are unwelled they did not have the prophets and minds scarcely what it ought to be, this day, the 3rd of August, 1879, Standing, that is he had a portion truth. But God has given apostles and righteous men in their that is, it seems to many that we a time when a man who look this of that same spirit. He did not the truth; it is worth midet to company that the contraction of the truth; it is worth midet to company that the contraction of the truth; it is worth midet to company the contraction of the truth; it is worth midet to company the contraction of the truth; it is worth midet to company the contraction of the truth; it is worth midet to company the contraction of the truth; it is worth midet to company the contraction of the truth; it is worth to contract the contraction of the truth; it is worth to contract the contr midst to communicate unto them attach too much importance to course did not receive a witness count bodily fatigue anything, be all else beside. He best the will of beautiful and beaut the will of heaven, as the genera- what one or two men might say, from on high, the testimony of Je- did not count to: anything, he did himself to us. When we less than the less than t tion in which the Savior lived had; when we assert that condemnation sus Christ, that these truths, pro- not take into consideration his him we know that he and for the same reason the consideration his him we know that and for the same reason the genera- follows their testimony; but there claimed by the servants of God are health, the feebleness of his frame. When we ask him for the tions that have lived since the tions that have lived since the is this to be considered con- divine and from heaven. Where none of these things had weight that we need we have the death of the Savior, and since the nected with the testimony of ever the Elders of this Church have with him. He did not think how, mony from an high that we like the wisions that John the Reveletor Codd of the Savior and since the nected with the testimony of ever the Elders of this Church have with him. He did not think how, mony from an high that we have a savior and since the nected with the testimony of ever the Elders of this Church have with him. He did not think how, mony from an high that we have a savior and since the nected with the testimony of ever the Elders of this Church have with him. He did not think how, mony from an high that we have a savior and since the nected with the testimony of ever the Elders of this Church have with him. visions that John the Revelator God's servants in ancient days, gone and lifted up their voices in by staying at home and attending our prayers, that he is

countability as this generation, live: God has not left the inhabit- the inhabitants of the earth to re- himself and receive wordly unto whom the fulness of the ever- ants of the earth without a witness, pent-aud they have gone to many tages; none of these things lasting gospel has been revealed God has not left them without lands and spoken in many lan- thought of, but the very When God communicates his mind some testimony which they can guages-and the people have re- he was called to go from ho and will unto his children by the obtain to assure them that the pented and sought unto God in the dropped everything, althou medium of angels, by the medium | words of God's servants-that is | name of Jesus Christ for a testi- somewhat feeble health of prophets, by the medium the true servants of God-which mony of the truth, there has never although he had already of holy men whom he has raised they hear are from him. When he been a single instance where they an honorable mission, up, those testimony, those unto whom that Cowdery, and when he sent his mony; not one. Who have reject- was called, to go without message is communicated, are angels to lay their hands upon ed this gospel? The indifferent, and without scrip, without held to a strict accountability to their heads to ordain them to that those who would not take the trou | earthly reward, putting his obey the same or be held in great priesthood which had been with. ble to investigate it, those who God, laboring with unself condemnation for their rejection of drawn from the earth, he also sent | would not take the trouble to bow for the salvation of his fellow it. If you will read the history of his Holy Spirit to accompany their in submission before the Lord and and thus he labored until h God's ways of dealing with the chil- words and to seal the testimony ask his testimony concerning it, victim to the ungotly bate of dren of men throughout all ages, with power upon the hearts of all these who thought it beneath them, who knew him not, who you will find that it is invariably that were houest, and who prayer- those who have been too proud or stood not the objects for while the case that judgments and calam- fully sought for a knowledge from shall kill and crucify, and some of ities, the fiery indignation of the God concerning the truth of their who, for some other reason, have imated his noble hear. Almighty always follow the rejec- words. When Joseph Smith and failed to take any interest in this tion of his truth, when that truth Oliver Cowdery laid their hands work; these are they who are not is proclaimed by his authorized upon other men's heads and orservants, such as are apostles and dained them to the same priestprophets. If Nineveh had not hood which they had received they heard it preached in its simheard the voice of Jonah, the Nin- from heaven, God confirmed the plicity and its purity amongst the evites could not have been held to ordination by bestowing the Holy the same accountability as those to Ghost upon them, and when they will this generation escape conbeen proclaimed; and when proph- truth, the Holy Ghost accompanied ets arese in the midst of Israel, their words, and those who were tion fall upon this generation be- thetic tears, allow the heart ture which I will read. It will be prophets whom God raised up to desirous of knowing from God res- cause of their inattention to these tion to flow out in this many declare his word, when the chil- pecting the truth of their testimony things Judgements and calami receive relief by the teams dren of Israel repented of their sins had the opportunity of receiving a ties will be visited upon the inhab- shed. But there is no me ings of God always followed their count condemnation commences ten in the scriptures, and also the faithful position, who obedience. But, on the other hand, because light hath come into the word of God to his servants in these true, who has be judgments of God followed, his an- is no law, there is no transgression. larly, as you all know, from time to who have been guilty ger and indignation were kindled Transgression commences when time, but they failed to find any deed. The land that against that people or generation, it | the law is received and men reject | cause of condemnation against | mourn is the land that rested down upon them and in it. What is the duty of the in- him, and at last his blood was shed. drenched with his blood, many instances to their destruc- habitants of the earth when they He sealed his testimony with his Governor, the Judge the

had, are not held to the same ac- as in the days in which we humility, in meekness, calling upon to his business, he could he hear that called Joseph Smith and Oliver have failed to receive that testi- it his duty to go w whom the word of the Lord had went forth and proclaimed the demnation? I say unto you, nay. and obeyed the warning voice of knowledge direct from heaven that | itants of the earth in consequence grief to day in this Talen the servants of God, then the bless- it was of God, and on this very ac- of neglecting the word of God writ- servant of God who have when the children of Israel reject- world, and when men reject it they days. The Prophet Joseph Smith, who has been ble ed the testimony of the servants of reject it because they love darkness his brother Hyrum, and numbers fallen a victim-a vi God, when the prophets preached rather than light. God does not of others have been slain. What hate that the advers in vain, when they testified and hold people accountable for that for? Why, said the mob who killed seeks to instil into the warned the people without the peo. which they do not know, or that him, because they could not reach the children of men who ple obeying the testimonies or their | which they have not had an oppor- | them by law. They were brought | and guided by him, an warnings, then invariably the tunity of knowing. Where there before courts, Joseph Smith partic. who have to mourn to-de bear a man stand up and proclaim | blood. Like other apostles and | ture, and the other dicials This is our position to-day. In in the power and authority of the prophets, he laid down his life as a State of Georgia le

too rich or too well situated or labored, and the purpos which members of this Church and who have failed toobey this gospel when friends of Elder Joseph No. It would be difficult nations of the earth. Well, now, There will be a heavy condemna-

We have met here to-day on this crime shall have been mony of Jesus and for the word of in his power to with Situated as the world is to-day, God which he bore. Was there murderers; but then w

Who shall mourn to-dul

Latter-day Saints? No.

mourn to day? The h

would not be right that well

repress the natural emotions

hearts, that we should stiffe

natural affections; it is righ

proper that we should shed a

es who took part in

born in the Church, hav driven, we have been we have been hatel

My brethren and sit