

# THE DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

## OBSEQUIES OF PRESIDENT HE- BER C. KIMBALL.

YESTERDAY was observed throughout the Territory, as a day of mourning, for the death of President Heber C. Kimball. In Cache Valley meetings were held at 2 p.m.; and all through the Territory, where the news was carried by telegraph or otherwise, the same tribute of respect was shown to his memory, as will be seen by the telegrams published from Presidents O. Hyde and Erastus Snow. Bishops and leading men from a distance, who were able to reach in time, were present in the city at the obsequies.

Although the weather was most unpropitious, and a heavy rain storm descended as the hour approached that had been announced for the commencement of the funeral services in the New Tabernacle, an immense congregation of sincere mourners filled the building, there being not less than 8,000 persons present. The stands were draped with black, as were the front of the choir seats, the front of the organ, and the awning over the stands. The bier rested in the middle aisle, immediately in front of the stands. The violence of the storm detained the procession a short time beyond that announced, but a few minutes after 2 o'clock it came down North Temple Street, turned into West Temple Street, and passed into the Temple Block by the west gate, winding around and entering the building by the northwest door of the Tabernacle. The coffin was borne by twelve men, and was accompanied by Presidents B. Young and D. H. Wells; Elders Orson Pratt, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, George A. Smith, Ezra T. Benson, Lorenzo Snow, George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith, of the Twelve Apostles; members of the First Presidency of the Seventies, and of the Presidency of the High Priest's Quorum; Bishop Hunter and counsel; the Presidency of the Stake; the High Council; and the family of President Kimball; the cortege being preceded by Captain Mark Croxall's brass band playing the "Dead March from Saul." The coffin was placed on the bier, and was decorated with floral tributes of respect and love. The members of President Kimball's family occupied the seats on either side of the coffin. While the procession was being seated, the organ gave forth the solemn sound of "Webster's Funeral March;" after which, the band played "Vital Spark of Heavenly Flame," and the congregation was called to order by President Young. The choir sang the following hymn composed for the occasion by Sister Eliza R. Snow:

### HYMN

For the 24th of June, 1868.

Be cheer'd, O Zion—cease to weep:  
Heber we deeply loved:  
He is not dead—he does not sleep—  
He lives with those above.

His flesh was weary: let it rest  
Entombed in mother Earth,  
Till Jesus comes—when all the bless'd,  
To life will be brought forth.

His mighty spirit, pure and free  
From every bond of earth,  
In realms of immortality,  
Is crowned with spotless worth.

He lives for Zion:—he has gone  
To plead her right'ous cause,  
Before the High and Holy One—  
Let all the Saints rejoice.

Let wives and children humbly kiss  
The deep-afflicting rod;  
A Father to the fatherless,  
God is the widow's God.

Elder George Q. Cannon then offered up the following prayer:

Oh God, our eternal Father, we, thy children, have assembled ourselves together upon this solemn occasion for the purpose of paying our last respects to the earthly remains of our beloved brother who has been taken from us, whose spirit has left this earthly sphere and gone hence. And we desire to approach thee, our Father, at this time, in the name of Jesus Christ, and supplicate thee in His name to bestow upon us thy Holy Spirit, that it may fill our hearts and that our minds may be enlightened thereby; that thy servants who shall speak unto us may be inspired by its revelations to speak those things that shall be instructive and edifying unto us who remain; and that thy people who have assembled together upon this mournful occasion may be filled

with the same spirit and their hearts be prepared to receive the instructions that shall be imparted to them, and be consoled and cheered and built up thereby. Notwithstanding, our Father, our sorrow is deep, and we feel that we have lost a friend, and a father, and a beloved counselor, one who has been undaunted and fearless in the days of trial and tribulation, and we mourn the loss of his society; yet, our Father, our grief is mingled with joy and thanksgiving that he has been faithful unto the end, that he has fought the good fight of faith, that he has finished his course, and that we have the satisfaction of knowing that there is a crown of immortality and endless glory in store for him. And in the midst of our grief, our sadness and sorrowing, we feel to rejoice in contemplating the victory that he has achieved, knowing that he is emancipated from the thralldom of sin, from the temptations and trials of this mortal sphere, and that he is transported beyond the power of Satan and everything that can injure or annoy. We pray thee, our Father, this day to pour the consolations of thy Holy Spirit upon thy servant Brigham. May his heart be comforted. May he be cheered and consoled. May he be strengthened and sustained by thee. Let thy Spirit rest down upon the family of thy servant who has gone from us, upon his wives, his children and his connections, that they may be cheered by thee, the Lord. Uphold them by thy almighty power, that the blessing of their husband and father may rest down upon them, and that the instructions which he has imparted to them in days past may be revived in their minds, that they may copy after his example and tread the straight and narrow path that leads to the continuation of eternal lives fearlessly as he trod it, that they may attain to the same glory to which he will attain. Let these blessings rest down upon them, and upon thy Saints, and upon all who have assembled here to-day. May we be profited by the life of thy servant; may we be fearless in the defense of the truth as he was, emulate his example and maintain our integrity as he maintained his integrity? All of which blessings we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Choir sang "Farewell all earthly honors, &c.," with the chorus "There's sweet rest in heaven." The following remarks were then made by the speakers named.

### ELDER JOHN TAYLOR.

Were I to give way to my feelings at the present time I should not be able to address this congregation. I feel as, I suppose, most of you feel—sympathy with the deceased who now lies before us. When I speak of this as being my feeling, I am aware that I express the feeling of the generality of this people. In this bereavement that has afflicted us, we all participate. A wave of sorrow has rolled throughout the Territory, and feelings of sympathy and sorrow gush up from the fountains of every heart. We have met at this time to pay the last tribute of respect to no ordinary personage, but to a good man who was called and chosen, and faithful; who has spent a lifetime in the cause of God, in the establishment of the principles of truth and in trying to upbuild the Church and Kingdom of God on the earth; who has endeared himself by his acts of kindness, affection, integrity, truthfulness and probity to the hearts of thousands of Latter-day Saints, who feel to mourn at this time with no ordinary sorrow.

That he is esteemed and venerated by this people as a friend, a counselor and a father, this immense congregation, who have met on this inauspicious occasion, is abundant testimony and proof if any is wanting. But his life, his acts, his services, his self-abnegation, his devotion to the cause of truth, his perseverance in the ways of righteousness for so many years have left a testimony in the minds, feelings and hearts of all who now feel to mourn his departure from our midst. But we meet not at the present time particularly to eulogize the acts of Brother Kimball, who is one of the First Presidency, and who stands, or who has stood as one of the three prominent men that live on the face of the earth at the present time.

We do not mourn over him as over an individual in a private capacity; neither, when we reflect on the circumstances with which we are surrounded, and the gospel we believe in, do we mourn that he lies there as he is. For although to us he is absent and lifeless and inanimate, yet his spirit soars above clothed upon with immortality and eternal life. And as he has been in possession of the principles of

eternal truth, by and bye, when the time shall roll around, that gospel and the principles of truth that he has so valiantly proclaimed for so many years, will resurrect that inanimate clay, and He who, on the earth proclaimed "I am the resurrection and the life," will cause him again to be resuscitated, re-animated, revived and glorified, and he will rejoice among the Saints of God worlds without end.

It is not then an ordinary occasion upon which we have met at the present time. It is not to talk particularly about our individual feelings and bereavement, although they are keen, poignant and afflictive; but we meet at the present time to perform a ceremony and to pay our last respects to the departed great one who lies before us. We do not mourn as those who have no hope; we do not sympathize with any foolish sympathy. We believe in those principles, that he, for so many years, has so strenuously advocated, and believing in them, we know that he has simply passed from onestate of existence to another. It is customary for men to say "how have the great fallen!" But he has not fallen. It is true that he has gone to sleep for a little while. He sleeps in peace. He is resting from his labors and is no more beset with those afflictions with which human nature always has to contend: he has passed from this stage of action, he has got through with the toils, perplexities, cares and anxieties in regard to himself, his family, and in regard to the Church with which he was associated; and in regard to all sublunary things, and while mortals mourn "a man is dead," angels proclaim "a child is born."

We believe in another state of existence besides this; and it is not only a belief, but it is a fixed fact, and hence for a man of God to bid adieu to the things of this world is a matter of comparatively very small importance. When a man has fought the good fight; when he has finished his course; when he has been faithful, lived his religion and died as a man of God, what is there to mourn for? Why should we indeed be sorrowful? There is a church here on earth; there is a church also in the heavens. He has migrated from one, and has passed into the other.

We have had leave us before Joseph, Hyrum, David Patten, Willard, Jedediah, and a mighty host of good, virtuous, pure, holy and honorable men. Some have died, as it were, naturally; others have been violently put to death. But no matter, they are each of them moving in his own sphere. Bro. Kimball has left us for a short time that he may unite with them. And whilst we are engaged carrying on the work of God, and advancing and maintaining those principles which he so diligently propagated and maintained while he was on the earth, he is gone to officiate in the heavens with Jesus, with Joseph and others for us. We are seeking to carry out his will, the will of our President and the will of our Heavenly Father, that we may be found fit to associate with the just who are made perfect, and be prepared to join with the Church Triumphant in the heavens. It is this that our religion points us to all the time.

We embraced the gospel of Jesus Christ, and he who now lies before us was one of the first to proclaim it to thousands that are here. And what did that teach us? To repent of our sins, and, having faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, to be baptized for the remission of our sins, to have hands laid upon us for the reception of the Holy Ghost and to gather together to Zion that we might be instructed in the ways of life; that we might know how to save ourselves—how to save the living, and how to redeem the dead; that we might not only possess a hope that blooms with immortality and eternal life; but that we might have a certainty, an evidence, a confidence that was beyond doubt or peradventure that we were preparing ourselves for a celestial inheritance in the kingdom of our God. And when man goes to sleep as Bro. Kimball has done, no matter how, he lays aside the cares of this world; the weary wheels of life stand still, the pulse ceases to beat, the body becomes cold, lifeless and inanimate; yet at the same time the spirit still exists, has gone to join those who have lived before; who now live and will live for evermore. He has trod the path that we have all to follow, for it is appointed to man once to die, and after that, we are told, the judgment. We have all to pass through the dark valley of the shadow of death, and as I said before, it matters little which way this occurs; but it does matter a great deal to us whether we are prepared to meet it or not; whether we have lived the life of the righteous; whether we have honored

our profession; whether we have been faithful to our trust; whether we are prepared to associate with the spirits of the just made perfect, and whether when He, who has said "I am the resurrection and the life" shall sound the trumpet we shall be prepared to come forth in the morning of the first resurrection.

Joseph Smith stands at the head of this dispensation. His brother Hyrum Smith was associated with him. They were both assassinated. No matter; they are gone. Brother Heber is now gone, and whilst we mourn the loss they rejoice at meeting one with whom they were associated before; for he was the friend of Joseph and Hyrum Smith, and he was the friend of God, and God is his friend and they are his friends. And as they associated together in time so they will in eternity. It behoves us then not to think so much about dying, but about our living, and to live in such a way that when we shall fall asleep, no matter when, or how it may transpire, that our hearts may be pure before God. When I look upon a man like Brother Kimball, I feel like saying let my last end be like his. Let my life be as spotless, as holy and as pure that I may stand accepted before God and the holy angels. Our ambition ought to be to live our religion, to keep the commandments of God, to obey the counsel that those lips, now silent and cold, have so often given to us; to honor our calling and profession, that we may be prepared to inherit eternal lives in the celestial kingdom of our God. May God help us to do so, in the name of Jesus: Amen.

### ELDER GEORGE A. SMITH.

The occasion which has called us together is truly one of mourning; but our mourning is not as the mourning of those who have no hope. Our father, our brother, our President, has fallen asleep. He has fallen asleep according to the promise that those who die unto the Lord should not die, but should fall asleep. Still, the circumstances with which we are surrounded cause us to feel keenly, deeply this bereavement of his company, of his counsel, of his support, of his society, and the benefit of that wisdom which ever flowed from his lips. Short is the journey from the cradle to the grave, and all of us are marching rapidly in that direction; and the present occasion is certainly calculated to inspire in our minds a desire that in all our lives and actions we may be prepared for that coming event, that we may be prepared to rest in peace, and in the morning of the first resurrection to inherit eternal life and celestial exaltation. The association which we have had with President Kimball has been of long standing. He entered the church early after its organization. In 1832, with President Brigham Young, he visited Kirtland, and made himself personally acquainted with the Prophet Joseph, whose bosom friend he was from the time of their first acquaintance until the day of his death. President Kimball was a man that seemed embarrassed when called upon to speak in public in the early part of his ministry. My first acquaintance with him was in 1833, when in company with President Young he moved his family to Kirtland. The Saints were then building the Kirtland Temple. He had but little means, but he subscribed two hundred dollars and paid over the money. Efforts were being made to build another house, for school and other purposes, and he subscribed one hundred dollars for that also to buy the nails and glass. That was the first public meeting at which I ever saw Heber C. Kimball. When he was chosen one of the Twelve Apostles, and they were called into the stand to bear their first testimony as Apostles to the Saints, there was an embarrassment and a timidity about his appearance that was truly humble. And when he went abroad to preach, many felt almost afraid to have Brother Kimball preach because he had not as great a flow of language as some others. But it turned out, I am sorry to say, that some of those who were the most eloquent seemed to be those who fell off by the way side. It was a dark hour around the Prophet in Kirtland, many having apostatized, and some of them prominent Elders, when Brother Kimball and some others were called upon to take a mission to England. He went abroad when some of the first Elders were covered with darkness, and apostasy ran rampant through the Church. He started almost penniless, made the trip across the ocean, introduced the gospel to England, and laid the foundation for the great work that has since been accomplished there, accompanied by Orson Hyde, Willard Richards and Joseph Fielding. Brothers Kimball and Hyde remained in England about