

DISCOURAGE

PREST. GEORGE Q. CANNON
DELIVERED
at the Funeral Services of the late
Prest. David O. Calder, in the
Tabernacle, Salt Lake City,
Sunday Morning, July 6th,
1884.

THE speaker commenced by reading the 40th chapter of the Book of Alma in the English Standard Version of the Book of Mormon. After which he said:

Thus readeth the 40th chapter of the Book of Alma, and ye shall doubtless remember that this is a part of the address or epistle that Alma the younger had been considerably distressed in writing to his father, Alma the elder, the high priest of the church, and the dead. After reading this chapter it seems as though anything that I might say would be superfluous, especially in view of the fact that we are today the mourners, and doubtless even the mourners, of the same afflictions that are so much easier felt and experienced than they are expressed. I think that the greatest eloquence, though silence is the greatest eloquence of all, is that which is uttered when we are called upon to part with a loved one. I think that the greatest eloquence is that which is uttered when a beloved brother—a man who has been entrusted to him—a man of integrity, a man of worth, a man of humility, a man of peace, a man of meekness, a man of gentleness, a man of kindness, a man of the people, to a great extent. He has

years, and he has left an unblemished record. We are called upon, it seems to me, more frequently these days to part with our friends, and especially with men of prominence than we were a few years ago. The men who took part in this work in the early days, who started out in their youth as members of the Church, have reached ripe manhood and old age, and they are dropping off one by one, reminding us that the time is not far distant when there will be a new generation upon

the theater or motion, new men so to speak, will step forward to take upon them the responsibilities that have been so well, so worthily, and so valiantly borne by the men who have passed and are now passing away. I have been greatly struck with this in reflecting upon the changes that have occurred since the death of President Young. It seems as though it was only a few days since he was here in our midst, and he looks back scarcely got over the habit of looking for him to come on the stand and to give into the world so much of the good that he had in him. It does not seem since he was here. But since his death there have been six. And it is ordained that the amount of

the twelve Apostles. One half of that quorum are, so to speak, new men. This gives us some idea of the changes which are occurring and how rapidly the men of this service are being swept away, going behind the vast multitude in other scenes, to labor in a higher sphere, and to take their part in the great work which is progressing in the world to which we are hastening. My constant and earnest prayer is, that God will raise up a host of faithful men of integrity, men of valor, to take the places of the men who are going. I doubt not that He will. In fact I feel sure that this work will lose nothing.

the departure of those who are called to go; for as has been remarked already, there is a constant stream of angels from the spirit world to the spirits to take the place of those who are going home. As they pass away, having filled their probation, others are pressed forward to the place of glorious and happy habitation. In this sphere of existence, pressing forward, a vast column of men, noble and holy beings, ready to take their place in the glorious and happy world assigned unto all his children.

We often think when we are perplexed and annoyed and tried in our feelings, that we are alone in our afflictions. But our lot is somewhat hard. Latter-day Saints in days that are passed, especially when subjected to active persecution,

felt—that is, some have felt—that they could not bear it any longer. It is recorded of Sidney Hixdon, who, with the Prophet Joseph Smith, had seen the Lord Jesus, who had the events of eternity opened to him, and who had been greatly gifted and blessed of God, that when he was in the prison at St. Louis, when a prisoner in jail in the State of Missouri, he felt that his sufferings were unbearable, that they were greater than he should be called upon to endure, and he murmured about his afflictions. This doubtless was partly the cause of his losing the Spirit of God, and becoming an apostate. He said, "O Father, know thy faithful servant."

condition of us all. He understands our circumstances, and he has promised unto every soul that He will give unto him or her strength according to his or her day. He does not forget His children. His providence is over them. His angels are around about them and have charge concerning them. He knows that which is best for us, and in calling upon us to pass through certain circumstances, if we submit to them patiently, receive them in the proper spirit we will find that they are the best adapted to make us wiser.

fect before Him, and to fit and qualify us for that life which is to come.

We are in a world of sorrow, a world of affliction, a world of pain, a world of death. God has ordained this probation for us. It was pre-arranged before we came here—that we should

descend, like our Lord and Master, below all things, in order that we may rise above all things. And He calls upon His children to pass through these scenes, to bear them patiently, to submit to them in the proper spirit, with a promise that if they do so their reward shall be ample. It is a remarkable fact—and we should reflect upon it often, in fact it should be before our eyes continually—that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the greatest being that ever trod the earth, should have been so humbled.

subject poverty all the days that He was upon the earth. He who created the Lord of the universe, who descended so low as to be born a slave and be cradled in a manger, and had scarcely anything with which to supply His wants. Most pathetic were the words which He uttered upon one occasion, revealing most graphically the condition in which He was placed, namely, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the

air have nests; but the son of man hath not where to lay his head.³¹ The animal creation were provided for; they had their places of resort, their habitations; but He was destitute among His fellow men. He had not a place to lay His head! And it was so all His life, dying as He did, a death of ignominy. Now if pleasant circumstances were the best things and the best for us to endure and to pass through, no doubt God would have

arranged it in the case of his only begotten Son. But He called Him to pass through these terrible scenes. His life was a continual scene of trial and temptation and persecution, and finally, as I have said, He was put to death. He passed through these with out faltering. He said, "I did not know what I was doing, but I did not know how to do it better." He was always doing His Father's will, and He did it in all the circumstances surrounding Him, and He was always doing it in the name of His Father.

With such an example as this before us we ought to hesitate when we are inclined to murmur, we ought to pause when we are inclined to desert with those who are ready to desert, we may surround us with great sorrow, there may be a clouding of the sun, but we may be assured that the

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nothing outside of it. It comprehends everything. Therefore, there are no documents for men to be faithful, for women to be faithful. What are there to be faithful to? To the earth? David O. Calder's life had been devoted to the acquisition of earthly things, and he had been a miser. He had preached, if possible, the height of the earth, and he had been a miser. He had said to him-to-day? Would it be of any benefit to him to-day? No. He has no more to do with the earth. Every thing that he has done, all his life's labor consisted with this life, is left behind him. He has no more to do with the earth. Even it must remain here. He cannot take it away from him. He cannot take it away from the earth. He cannot take it away from the earth. We can only take that away which belongs to the sphere whither it belongs. We can only take that away of the matter that belongs to this earth, therefore our spirits do not remain here. They have been taken and they are gone. They are gone from the earth. Therefore when the time of dissolution comes, when the fiat of

man, his life, his back, his neck, his eyes, have
 read in your bearing to trust promises
 that are made and proved in Him. He is
 His own sphere; but the tabernacle
 stays in Him. And so in all His
 promises, His life, His bearing, His
 man can accumulate. He cannot take
 any of these things away with him. All
 acquired by his experience lies upon
 the earth. He has been faithful for
 years, and has received promises from God.
 He has been one of purity and he has
 gained experience. In purity, he can
 take that with him. He has cherished
 a constant companion, he can take that
 with him. On the other hand, if he
 given heed to the evil one, he comes
 under condemnation, that spirit goes
 with him. He has been faithful, and
 till the time comes for him to repent
 and begin where he ought have begun
 in the first place. Therefore, let me say again, my
 brethren, let us have our inheritance
 in the world to serve our
 God. Think of the joy and peace that
 will be ours from the promises of God.
 Why, it is peace from morning to
 morning to rest from month to month
 to rest from year to year to rest from
 out. The reflection that God is in
 us, the knowledge that His Spirit rests
 upon us, the assurance that we are
 that we are accepted of Him—is there

nothing that excels it? Those who have been sanctified by the Spirit, and those who have experienced the influence of the Spirit of God in their hearts, will be able to give an answer to the question, "What do you exchange it for?" Nothing upon the face of the earth; not even the earth itself. The Spirit of God would exchange that Spirit, for if he once had it.

If we are faithful, let us be humble, let us be meek, let us be lowly, let us put away every influence of the flesh, let us be pure, speaking all falsehood, all deception, all guile, all craft, all malice.

God bless you, my brethren and sisters. May I see all you with His Holy Spirit, and His Word, who are tempted, or any of us who are tempted, and tried, to resist temptation and to overcome it, and to be able to attain unto glory and exaltation in the presence of our God.

Let us be faithful. Let the Spirit of God rest upon them, my desire. Let these boys and these girls, and these young men, and these women emulate the example of their father, friend and brother as shown. Let them be faithful. Let them be pure. If they are faithful, they will be associated with him, and not only with him, but with all the angels, the holy, and all the pure, to dwell together eternally, which I ask in their names.

name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

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