

ruled among His chosen people, when they enjoyed the higher principles, and the liberty of the holy Gospel; but they became so corrupt in heart that they could not endure that liberty, and they pleaded with God for a temporal king. He told them it was not good for them; that a king would rule over them with a tyrant's power; that they had better live under the liberty and principles of the Gospel; but they were too wicked in their lives and character and existence, and they sought unto the Lord again for a king, and He, in His wrath and anger, gave one unto them, who laid burdens upon them that were heavy to be borne. But as Brother Lyman has said upon this occasion, America is a choice land above all other lands, and we find it recorded in a sacred book that the Lord has said it is a choice land above other lands, filled with the blessings of earth and heaven, and He has promised that no king should reign upon this land so long as the people should retain those principles of freedom which are enunciated in the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This, then, is one condition in favor of America over all the other lands of the earth. Viewing it from this standpoint, the American people stand higher in the favor of God, not subject to the power of kings and princes and emperors, but He hath permitted them to be in a very high degree a free people, although they have not yet come to that high standard of purity that they shall become a law unto themselves, and that law an emanation from God. He has permitted them to choose from their own ranks those who shall be their servants, for the establishment of laws, of order, and for the redress of their wrongs and the protection and preservation of their individual rights. This being the case with us, we realize and feel to rejoice that we are more highly favored of God than any other people of the world.

He whose death we have met this day to mourn was elected to the highest position in the gift of the American people—the greatest honor which could be conferred by man upon his brother. His high and exalted position was not the accident of birth. He went not forth at the head of marshalled troops to secure the prize, but he took the position because of the willing voice of the large majority of his countrymen, and when he entered upon the discharge of the duties of his high office, feelings of party spirit were done away with. The party which elected him, at least the majority, felt that they had a chieftain who would administer the laws, under the constitution of this government, to the best interests of all. His political opponents regarded him with favor, and though in his own party dissension arose, and though his administration was not free from embarrassment, caused by the ambition of others, he lived not long enough to determine the value of his service to his country and to the friends of his party or to those of his political opponents. In the pride of his life, in the enjoyment and realization of his high ambition, he was stricken down by the assassin's hand.

It may not be inappropriate on this occasion to recall and recite a brief biography of his life; how that from early childhood he had met with misfortune; how that when he was but eighteen months old his father passed away and left him the youngest of four children to be cared for by a widowed mother; how he struggled and sought an existence in the carpenter's shop; how he drove the canal boats for his employer; how he afterwards sought to obtain a position upon the decks of the boats upon the lakes; how the whole plan of his life was changed by reason of his having been stricken down by malarial fever, which compelled him to stay at home to be cared for by his widowed mother; and how by encouragement of the school teacher, who lived in his vicinity, he sought to obtain an education and to rise to prominence and to usefulness in life. This was the turning point in his life. What education he had gained was by meeting in the town with his elders where they would publicly read the newspapers and discuss the topics of the day. By this means he acquired some information. Afterwards, when he had, by the assistance of his friends, acquired a slight knowledge of arithmetic, and was able to read and write indifferently, he was provided with the means to attend school, in 1849, in Chester Academy, wherein he mastered all the studies there taught, and prepared himself for college. He entered that college and graduated with the metaphysical honors

of his class, the highest honors which can be bestowed upon an individual graduating from the universities of our land; and he found himself, at the age of twenty-five years, having completed his college education, with a suit of clothes and four hundred and fifty dollars in debt. The school in which he first entered found him a ready scholar, and its doors were again open to him. He entered as teacher; before he had entered as pupil and janitor. He now enters as teacher. By and by he becomes its president. Having religious inclinations he united himself with the Disciples of Christ known as the Campbellite Baptists. In view of this, and holding a position in that church, it became his duty, while president of that college, to preach and to lecture, and by reason of this fact it was supposed by many that he had studied for the ministry. But he had actually prepared himself for the legal profession, although he had but a nominal practice at that time. Feeling within him a spirit of liberty, a desire that all men, of whatsoever nationality, of whatsoever race or color, that they with him should enjoy equal freedom and equal privileges. It was about this time when the abolition sentiment broke out, and in that section of country where he lived, it was regarded as the hot-bed of abolitionism. He partook of its spirit, and entered by this means into the political field, and in the campaign of General Fremont, his speeches called forth attention, and by and by he was elected from the district in which he lived to represent that district in the senate of the State of Ohio. He was its youngest member, and was there but a short time before he was acknowledged as the leader of the abolition party of that day, which subsequently resolved itself into the Republican party of later years. After the war broke out he was solicited by Governor Denison, of Ohio, and tendered a lieutenant-colonelcy in an Ohio volunteer regiment in the service of the United States. After accepting this position he was detailed as a recruiting officer in the 42nd Infantry of Ohio. After that was raised—many of his personal friends and relatives enlisted in that regiment, because they knew his sterling worth and integrity, and his love for his country; after that was raised he was commissioned colonel of that regiment. He afterwards went into the war, and by reason of his good behavior, his judgment and his skill as an officer in the army, in Sandy Valley campaign, he was created a brigadier general. Afterwards he was transferred to the Army of the Cumberland and was placed upon the commanding general's staff. By reason of his preference we here begin to find some individuals jealous of his advancement; they began to criticize his ability as a commanding officer in the field, some saying that he was retained on the commanding staff for the reason that he was not competent to command in the field, yet President Hinsdale pays him the fitting tribute that in every respect he was competent and capable of discharging every duty devolving upon him in whatsoever position of life he might be called to act, whether in the field or elsewhere. While holding a commission in the army, he was elected to Congress from the district in which he lived. He retired from the field because it was a course of action which did not suit him. He had no desire for military preferment, neither did he love the deeds of war. His field of action was changed from the arena of strife to that of the halls of Congress. Here he became a national target, as every individual who occupies that position must under existing circumstances to a greater or less extent when party spirit runs high. And here I may say that though he was associated with the Republican party his speeches were often opposed to his party. Yet when he came to act in those matters his vote was always with his party. He had a desire within him to do that which was right. He was a politician, and under some circumstances we know that politicians cannot act according to their conceptions of that which is just and true, without bringing upon them the censure of their party. But he felt to maintain the integrity of his own heart, and in this respect he was far ahead of many of his associates. But one thing may be said to his honor—and I would that it could be said of all his associates and colleagues in Congress—he never secured to himself a fortune by reason of his political position; in this

respect he showed an honesty and integrity of heart and character far above many of his colleagues and associates. After he had continued as a member of the House during a number of years, he had within him senatorial aspirations. By and by the time came when the door opened for his gaining senatorial honors and they were cheerfully conferred upon him. But before he was permitted to fill that position, he was called upon by his countrymen to be President of the United States. The administrative acts of President Garfield are fresh in the memory of all, and need not be recalled upon this occasion. He gathered around him friends, and from his low estate he reached the highest pinnacle of fame which it is possible for the citizens of this country to attain unto in political life, and as I have said though his troubles were heavy by reason of circumstances, they were not altogether of his own making; for we must realize that in the meantime the party which placed him in power was in its decadence—perhaps all will not agree with me in this—it had lost its impulse and vitality. It was brought into being to free four millions of blacks in slavery. President Garfield labored to this end and purpose and when it was achieved, when that which had caused the formation of the party had been fulfilled, the object of its creation was also fulfilled. And while in the height of his glory, leaving the affairs of government for the time being to his associates to go to his family, to a place of resort, where circumstances would be more favorable—going in the pride of his heart, and glory of success, saying to his Cabinet that they had surmounted the difficulties which had beset them, and now their sail would be clear in the presidential course, or in the discharge of the duties of the office of President, he was stricken down by the hand of an assassin. In his personal and private life, he was honest and temperate. He was a devoted husband and loving father; a diligent student, an untiring reader of history and of political literature. He was full of wisdom, of knowledge, of experience and executive ability, and I believe with a desire to administer the affairs of this government for the benefit of all, not to be the President of a party, but to maintain the honor of our common country. In his life and death he has left us an example; an example to all American citizens, an example to the young men of America as showing how honor and fame from no condition rise, but in acting well, there all the honor lies. He has said in his example, "act well your part," and shown that by industry, integrity and honesty high honors may be attained and much good accomplished. But he has fallen, and the nation to-day mourns its honored dead. And as Brother Lyman has already said: Recognizing the providence of God in this thing, may we be spared all further scenes of this kind, that we may not be called upon again to mourn the loss of another chieftain, especially by the tragic hand of an assassin. May God hear and answer our prayers to this end. And while the nation weeps, may it at the same time learn a lesson of wisdom, a lesson which shall result in the highest good to the people and to the world. Yet though our Chief Magistrate has been stricken down by the hand of death, thank God our nation lives, and may it continue to live and increase, and grow until the tree of liberty shall extend its branches over every land, and until truth and righteousness shall go forth unto complete victory, Amen.

The closing discourse was given by
PRESIDENT GEO. Q. CANNON.

The occasion which has called us together to-day is not unexpected, neither has it been for some time. In fact the impression has rested upon many minds from the fatal 2nd of July until the news reached here of the death of President Garfield, that the bullet of the assassin had done its work, and that it would be impossible for him to survive the shock. Yet there have been many times, when dispatches have been of so reassuring a character, that hope has been quickened in our breasts and we have thought that after all the result might not be fatal. I have felt this afternoon as though I ought to make some few remarks, and yet I have shrunk from doing so. It is a subject upon which I would rather hear others speak than speak myself.

I was well acquainted with General Garfield, I may say, intimately acquainted with him. I knew his noble character. There is no man in public life with whom I have been brought in contact whom I loved more, or for whom I had a higher esteem; and that love has been strengthened by acts of kindness towards me and towards the people whom I have the honor to represent. Whatever may be said of General Garfield by those who pretend to know his later thoughts and who judge from the expressions made in his inaugural message respecting Utah, I have but this testimony to bear now, and as I have always borne it, that General Garfield, as far as I knew him, was a friend to the people of Utah. I never appealed to him in vain when help was needed, when special measures were sought to be adopted to reach us and to bring us into a false position, and to deprive us of our rights—I say I never appealed to him without his responding cheerfully to my appeal, and doing that which he could to assist me in meeting what I considered unjust attacks upon us. I said, I think the day after he was shot, that of all the men in public life whom I had met, I thought he was the most familiar with our doctrines. I was drawn to him not only by the nobleness of his character, by the greatness of his soul, by his magnanimity and freedom from narrow prejudices, but I was drawn to him also because I knew that he was familiar with our people and with their early history, and with many of the members of our Church; also, that for a certain distance we believed the same religious truths. I felt that his denomination, to a certain extent at least, was the forerunner of that to which I belonged; and that Alexander Campbell, the founder, and Sidney Rigdon, his associate, had been, in the hands of God, instruments in preparing the way for the coming forth of this work; and that many who had espoused the doctrines taught by those men, afterwards, when they heard the fullness of the truth gladly received it, having been prepared for it by the preaching of that denomination. I was, therefore, drawn towards him on that account, as well as for the other reasons which I have stated.

He was a man whom every one must have loved who could love nobility of character. He was a remarkable man, a man of extensive reading and information, and probably as well informed as any man with whom I have been brought in contact; a man of a kind heart and love for his fellows, and non-partisan to a great extent, for a politician. He was not a strong enough partisan to suit many of his party friends, and I have heard expressions of dissatisfaction muttered against him on the floor of the House because of this feature in his character. He, in the opinion of many, yielded too much to his political opponents. He could not, from his nature, draw the line too rigidly. He was not by nature what may be termed a stalwart in the political sense. It was not because his conceptions were not high enough; but if he failed at all in the estimation of his political friends, it was in his execution of political duty. In my opinion that sprung from the natural kindness of his heart. He may have been willing to talk against us; he did in his inaugural message; but I always thought that if President Garfield could be brought face to face with any question affecting us, and matters could be laid fairly before him, he was a man of too high and too just a conception of right, to do even a humble and obscure people like we are—a people who have been maligned and who are unpopular as we are—an injustice knowingly. That is my estimate of his character. A more unprovoked murder never occurred in political life than his. It was an atrocious deed. Nothing whatever occurred during his administration to provoke such a result. And believing as we do that no murderer can have eternal life, there is a punishment that awaits his assassin which the vengeance of man cannot comprehend. He may be executed; and if such a thing as torture were permissible under our laws, man's vengeance would not approach that eternal punishment which he will no doubt receive for the shedding of this blood. While conversing with General Garfield upon our people he has often reminded me of some of the men I knew in boyhood; for instance, of Sidney Rigdon and Parley P. Pratt. He was a man of their

type. He belonged to the same sect that they did before they became associated with the Latter-day Saints. They belonged to the Reformed Baptists, afterwards called Campbellites, and now called the Christian Church. He had advantages of education which they had not, the facilities for education being greater in his boyhood and youth and manhood than in theirs. It was, in my view, a great triumph when he was nominated, because I knew how unpopular the denomination had been to which he belonged. Fifty years ago when Parley P. Pratt carried the gospel to that part of Ohio where President Garfield was born, and Sidney Rigdon was baptized into the Church, to talk about a man belonging to that denomination ever becoming President of the United States seemed to be as unlikely as it would be to-day to talk about a Mormon being made President of the United States. I therefore felt considerable sympathy for him, and I hoped great things for his administration. But as has been said, we must acknowledge the hand of the Lord in this as in every other event that occurs, and bow in humble submission to it. I would to God that these things would cease in this land, and that men could feel that if they only let their enemies alone they will die after awhile themselves. There is no need to shed blood. Death is on the earth and it will strike down, all sooner or later. This spirit to shed blood is of the devil, and, as Brother Miner has quoted to us, it commenced with Cain slaying his brother Abel, and it has run in the earth to a greater or less extent from that day to the present time. There is no reason why men should seek each other's blood; they will soon pass away; the fat has gone forth, and it will be executed, and death will come sooner or later. The spirit that prompts men to take each other's life or to do each other injury is opposed to God and to everything that emanates from Him. Blood should not be shed except in self-defense or as a penalty for crime when the law is executed.

There is one thing I have mourned over, in reading in the dispatches that there was a probability of a mob breaking into the jail and taking this murderer out and executing vengeance upon him. I would regard it as one of the most unfortunate things that could befall us, next, in fact, to the killing of President Garfield himself, for such violence to be resorted to. It would be an act that every man of right feeling would blush to think of, that in our land, and under a form of government like ours, a miserable maniac—for the man who could commit this crime is a maniac—could not be left in charge of the proper officers until the law should have its course. It would be a dreadful spectacle, and I would mourn over because of the existence of a feeling which should not have place in the hearts of Americans. No; it would be better for him to escape man's vengeance than that the law should be trampled upon, and a deed of violence committed that would cause posterity to blush. There is no danger, however, of his escaping punishment, and not the least necessity to have recourse to mob violence. This is a hateful method of wreaking vengeance, and is no more justifiable than assassination.

My brethren and sisters, if there has ever been a disposition in our hearts, a desire in our feelings to take revenge, either to take personal vengeance, or to wish that some public vengeance should be executed upon any of those who have offended us or even mobbed us, if there has been a spirit of that kind in us suggested itself to us, let us beseech God, our heavenly Father, to take away that feeling from us. It is not good, and we cannot indulge in a spirit of that kind without sinning against Him. Our great exemplar, the Savior, has left for us an example that we should always remember: "Father, forgive them," was His expression; and surely we should be able to say the same of all who may have offended us, or done us an injury, whether it be a real or fancied injury. This man who has caused this nation to mourn and, in fact, it may be said, caused humanity to mourn, imagined he was justified in doing this cruel deed; at least, we are led to suppose that some fancied injury either to himself or somebody else overturned his weak mind and prompted him to commit this atrocity. It is an easy thing for men, if they will yield to the feeling, to al-