

# LAI D TO REST.

## The Remains of President John Taylor Consigned to the Grave.

### FUNERAL CEREMONIES IN THE TABERNACLE.

The Largest Number of People Ever Seen in this City at One Time.

### IMPRESSIVE AND APPROPRIATE DISCOURSES.

The morning of Friday, July 29th, 1887, dawned on a day of sadness in Utah, on the occasion of the funeral services over all that was mortal of President John Taylor, the beloved and honored leader whose life's interests, for over half a century, had been devoted to the great cause in which the Latter-day Saints are engaged, and who, for forty years, has shared in this Territory, the labor of establishing a great commonwealth.

With the appearance of daylight vehicles loaded with people could be seen wending their way from various directions toward the city. From north, south, east and west, came thousands to honor the great man.

President Taylor's family assembled at the Gardo House at 6 a. m., and at ten minutes before 7 the body was removed to the large Tabernacle, where it was placed preparatory to the doors being opened, ten minutes later, for the admission of the mass of people already assembled outside of the Temple Block.

From seven o'clock until half past eleven, a continuous stream of humanity flowed into the Tabernacle, where President Taylor's body lay in state. It is estimated that fully twenty-five thousand people availed themselves of the privilege of taking a last look at the face of the illustrious dead. The arrangements made by the committee in charge were so complete that the most excellent order prevailed, the people passing in at the west gate of the Temple enclosure and into the Tabernacle by the northwest entrance. The countenance of the deceased President appeared more natural than might have been expected, there being but little evidence of physical suffering, the general expression being peaceful, although somewhat worn.

The body was placed in the open space in front of the stand, so that the people could pass in single file on each side. The coffin in which it was enclosed was made of Utah pine, in accordance with the wish of the deceased, and was stained and polished until it resembled mountain mahogany. It was tastefully ornamented with silver trimmings, there being an entire absence of display. On the silver breastplate of the coffin was inscribed in neatly engraved lettering:

PRESIDENT JOHN TAYLOR.  
Died July 25, 1887,  
Aged 78 years, 8 Mos. and 24 Days.

The footplate was also a sample of beautiful workmanship. On it was engraved:

HOLINESS TO THE LORD.  
REST IN PEACE.

The Tabernacle was draped in mourning, the organ and stands being covered with crape. In the front of the organ was an excellent steel-plate engraving of the deceased. The stands were decorated with beautiful flowers, tastefully arranged. On the Sacrament stand, in the centre, was a fine piece of floral ornamentation, on which was inscribed:

CHAMPION OF LIBERTY.

On a sheaf of wheat near by was the inscription,

WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.

While the throng of visitors was passing through the building, Prof. J. J. Daynes played a number of appropriate selections on the grand organ.

At 12 o'clock, the time appointed for commencing the services, the building was filled to its utmost capacity. The stand of the First Presidency was unoccupied. On the next were seated Apostles Lorenzo Snow, Franklin D. Richards and Heber J. Grant, and Daniel H. Wells, of the Counselors to the Twelve Apostles; Patriarch John Smith, President Angus M. Cannon, of Salt Lake Stake; President A. O. Smoot, of Utah Stake; and Patriarchs Lorenzo D. Young and Joseph B. Noble. On the third, Presidents Jacob Gates, Horace S. Eldredge, Seymour B. Young and Abram H. Cannon, of the First Council of the Seventies, had places. The members of President Taylor's family occupied the seats immediately in front of the stand.

At 15 minutes past 12 the congregation was called to order by President Angus M. Cannon, who read the instructions of President Taylor regarding the manner in which his funeral should be conducted, as follows:

SALT LAKE CITY,  
November 17th, 1873.

President B. Young:

DEAR BROTHER—Being asked to give a written account of the way I wish to be buried, I present the following:

I have no desire for any particular

formula; but I should wish my body to be washed clean; to be clothed in clean white linen garments and robes, with shoes, apron, cap, etc.; to be laid in a coffin sufficiently large to contain my body without pressure.

Should I die here, let me be buried in my own lot in the graveyard. Let the coffin be neat and comely, but plain and strong; made of cedar, or redwood, or of our own mountain pine; if of the latter, colored or stained, and placed in an outer strong box, with a light cotton or woolen mattress or bed, and a convenient pillow for the head.

The services, such as prevail at the time among the Saints. A plain slab may be placed over the body, and a stone at the head and feet; on the headstone to be given an account of my name, age and birth, as shall suit the feelings of my family.

Should I die in Jackson County, Mo., let the above directions be carried out, as far as practicable.

Respectfully, your brother,

JOHN TAYLOR.

The choir and congregation united in singing the hymn on page 390 of the Latter-day Saints' Hymn Book:

When first the glorious light of truth burst forth in this last age,  
How few there were with heart and soul  
To obey it did engage!  
Yet of those few how many  
Have passed from earth away,  
And in their graves are sleeping  
Till the Resurrection day.

The opening prayer was offered by Bishop Millen Attwood.

The choir sang the hymn on page 391:

Thou dost not weep, to weep alone;  
The broad bereavement seems to fall  
Unheeded and unfelt by none:  
He was beloved, beloved by all.

The first speaker was

APOSTLE LORENZO SNOW:

A passage of Scripture has occurred to my mind that, I think, is quite appropriate and applicable on the present occasion, which I will read. It will be found in the Second Epistle of Paul to Timothy, the last chapter, the 6th and 7th verses:

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.

I desire, while I occupy a few moments, to have the undivided attention of this vast assembly, also the benefit of your prayers, that such things may be offered as shall be suitable to the occasion.

Paul, whose remarks I have read in our hearing, was an Apostle of the Lord our Savior. The individual whose remains now lie before us was also an Apostle of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God. And as Paul made this statement in regard to himself, so also could be made a statement similar by President Taylor, whose remains lie before us this afternoon.

Paul, during his life, struggled and contended for the faith which was once delivered to the Saints—those principles that pertain to the life and salvation of the human family; and he was willing to make any sacrifice and go through every scene of difficulty and trouble, in order to accomplish his object, that his testimony in regard to the Son of God, and those principles that he had espoused might be carried forth to the nations of the earth—to the whole human family. He suffered imprisonments; he suffered the lash of his persecutors; he suffered every indignity, and finally died a martyr to those principles that he so laboriously and so effectually carried forth among the human family.

No also, we can say of President Taylor. Those principles that had been made known to him by the revelations of the Son of God as being of a divine nature—principles that pertained to the interests and salvation and exaltation of the human family—he carried forth to the various nations of the earth; and he heeded not the difficulties that ensued or that were in his path of progress. He has shown to the world, he has shown to the Latter-day Saints, he has shown to angels and to the Lord our God, his willingness, his determination, his resolution to do all in his power to carry out and accomplish the work of the Most High God. This he has done, and there lie his remains. He has left this world of sorrow, of trials, of afflictions of every nature that the Saints have to endure. He has gone to a better world. And it may be said of him truthfully, as was announced to John, the Revelator, when upon the Isle of Patmos, who was commanded to write what he heard by a voice from the eternal worlds:

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.

In a few verses before those that contain this vision it says, an angel was seen passing swiftly through the midst of eternity, coming down to earth, bearing the Gospel of the Son of God, to be declared unto every nation, kindred, and tongue and people. This message our dear beloved brother has sought, during a part of his life covering a period of over fifty years, to carry forth to the nations of the earth. And during this period it is well known to the Latter-day Saints, whose history is before them, the sufferings, the trials, the afflictions, and the blood that he spent in announcing and carrying forward these principles of life and salvation to the world of mankind. He truly fought a good

fight. He has finished his course; "and henceforth," his spirit could well proclaim, if he were here before us "there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Of course, we feel the affliction; we feel the sad stroke. The Latter-day Saints feel that we have lost a friend; that we have lost a mighty counselor; that we have lost one of the greatest men that have stood upon the earth since the days of the Son of God—a man whose virtue, whose integrity, whose resolution to pursue the path of righteousness is known, and well known, and is profoundly understood and comprehended deeply. Now, we could apply this passage of Scripture to many others who have gone before; they have fought the good fight and kept the faith to the end; they have finished their course, and they now sleep in peace in the spirit world, and the influences of their grand doings and great accomplishments in the path of righteousness extend over the land of Zion. The Latter-day Saints feel those beautiful and glorious influences. Our hearts are made glad to contemplate their virtues, their fidelity, their faithfulness, their glorious integrity.

This our beloved brother has not only been a father and friend to his wives and to his children and his numerous family; he has been a faithful friend to the world of mankind, which, at some future period, though it may be for a thousand years to come, they will distinctly understand. He has stood firm to those principles that are a light to the world, that are a light to the human family. And did the world understand President Taylor and his motives during the last 50 years of his pilgrimage among the children of men, they would feel differently towards him than they now do. Those who put themselves in the attitude of enemies towards the Latter-day Saints and the servants of God do so because they don't comprehend us; they don't understand our hearts and don't understand our willingness to sacrifice in order to lay a plan or to carry out measures by which salvation may come to them also. We dedicate our lives which we hold as not dear to us, in order that the world may understand that there is a God in the eternal worlds; in order that they may understand that God has something to do at the present time with the affairs of the children of men. The world is passing into feelings and opinions of infidelity. Even among the Christian portions of the human family, thousands and tens of thousands, though they are not willing to confess it because of being unpopular, do not believe that God has anything to do with the children of men. We have to stand forth and make sacrifices in order that that belief and knowledge may come to the children of men. That is the case with our beloved brother, President Taylor. He has shown himself willing to make sacrifices before he would deny or turn his back upon those principles that, when people understand them, lead them to the path of knowledge, of salvation, and of immortality.

Well, it is so ordered that one man's death, or the death of a dozen, though they stand in highest positions in the Church, do not stop this work. The Latter-day Saints have advanced to that wisdom, and that intelligence, and that understanding that this does not materially affect their interest. The Kingdom of God moves forward. It is not dependent upon one man or half a dozen men. It was thought by some in the days of Joseph that this Church could not prosper except Joseph guided its destinies; and when the time came when he was to pass away from this world as a martyr into the spirit world, the Saints throughout the Kingdom of God were greatly agitated. It was something unexpected. They hardly knew how things would then move. The responsibility then devolved upon the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles; and through the blessings of God upon them and the spirit of inspiration that dwelt in their bosoms, and under the guidance of the Almighty, the kingdom moved forward. And so in regard to the times when our beloved brother Brigham Young was called from this state into the spirit life. He passed away almost unexpectedly. The Saints were hardly prepared for it. And yet the kingdom of God moved forward. The duties of guidance were still upon the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

The Lord has seen proper now to call our beloved brother, President Taylor, away from these scenes of suffering, these scenes of martyrdom; and the Church still moves forward. Notwithstanding the duties and the obligations devolve again upon the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles for the third time, through the blessing of the Almighty and the spirit of inspiration that will be upon them, as always has been, the Church will move forward. We are gaining that experience that each man and each woman know what his or her duty is; and they know the foundation upon which this Kingdom and Church is founded. They know the foundation established; and they know that God reigns over the children of men and over the affairs of the Latter-day Saints. They feel now, perhaps, different from what they generally feel when circumstances of this kind occur. They feel more calm, more assurance in the providences of the Almighty.

And so in regard to the beloved family of President Taylor. Of course, they cannot help but feel—and it is well that they do feel—that they have lost a parent, a father, a guide, to direct and to counsel. But still there is nothing in the way of their progress, any more than there is in the way of the progress of the Kingdom of God. They can move forward, and it is their duty to move forward in order that the word of the angel may be fulfilled, which said:

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.

And this family of President Taylor's, if they prepare themselves, can go onward notwithstanding they have lost their head. The road is still clear.

They still have the counsels of the Holy Spirit, to which they are entitled, for guidance and direction, and they can move forward in the path of wisdom and knowledge, and in all those beautiful qualifications that make a Latter-day Saint; and they can prepare themselves, so that the words of the angel may be fulfilled. Elder Taylor's works follow him. His labors, so far as his family are concerned, follow him.

Well, I have occupied sufficient time. There are a number here that we wish to speak. I ask God in his His mercy to bless the family of President Taylor that the Holy Spirit of Life may be upon them, and that they may have consolation in their hearts. Their parent is now dwelling in glory, having a crown of righteousness upon his head; and he will be there to welcome them as they pass off one after another from this into the next world and to take them by the hand. God bless the family of President Taylor. God bless the Latter-day Saints. God bless the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, on whom rests the responsibility of moving forward the interests of the Kingdom of God. God bless all the authorities of the Latter-day Saints, and bless the honest in all the world of mankind, in my prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Brother Snow was followed by

APOSTLE FRANKLIN D. RICHARDS.

Beloved fellow-mourners: On occasions of this kind, when the great men whom God has raised up for our guidance, are released from their labors in this low estate and called to another of a higher and more glorious character, it appears to me suitable that we should spend a little time and dwell upon their virtues, their excellent examples, and those high, dignified traits of character, which they have shown forth unto us as the exemplars of that which is right and proper before all good people, and which is most acceptable to God and the angels of heaven.

We are called to part with one of God's noblemen—a brother, a father, a husband and a true friend to all that is excellent and praiseworthy among mankind. Many of the points of his character and of the transactions of this great and good man have already been noticed in the prints, and it is to be hoped that a correct, competent and creditable biography of his life may be given to the Saints and to the world, that his true character as a man of God may be known as a standard and abiding testimony to the whole human family. I, therefore, cannot—neither can any of us to-day—enter largely into a consideration even of the most important features of the busy and very profitable life which he has spent. But I wish to notice two or three of the prominent points or traits of his character which, as a fellow-laborer in the Gospel, I have come personally to know.

President Taylor was a man that could not get down to grovel with the low-lived, the vicious, the ribald, nor any who indulged in the follies and vanities of mortal life. When the Gospel first found him, he was aspiring from the measure of grace that existed among the most devout religious worshippers, and hungering; and thirsting for something nobler and better, and the testimony of the glorious truths again revealed came to his ears by the Elders of the Church and soon by the blessed testimony of the Prophet Joseph.

Brother Farley P. Pratt had the distinguished honor to sound the Gospel of Jesus Christ in his ears. He was the instrument to lead him into the Church of Christ. Brother Pratt found in him that right heart and that open hand by which he was led to go right forward in the truth, and the new wine in the old vessel did not harm. President Taylor was a man bold and daring for the truth. He knew no fear. I recollect well when he and I were on our missions in Europe together he labored in France—on the coast of infidel France—if I mistake not, in Havre. He labored in that vicinity diligently; and at one time a number of religious divines combined together to put down this heresy, as they termed it. President Taylor, with that boldness which ever characterized him consented to meet a whole pack of them, all that were willing to conspire together to silence and turn away the testimonies from reaching the hearts of the people. I recollect well my feelings when in Liverpool at the time. Morally speaking it was like Paul when he writes about fighting the beasts at Ephesus. He withstood them and he brought forth the truth, and souls were given him as the result of his labors; an interest was awakened, and some were gathered out. His labors were continued and incessant until he obtained a translation of the

Book of Mormon in the French language. President Taylor was a man who, in his bearing and nature was onward and upward. Who that is before me ever heard him indulge in ribaldry or light and trifling and vain conversation? He was always looking forward, from the moment he embraced the Gospel, for a higher platform upon which he could climb and rise until he could go back, a son of God, and associate, as he did here on the earth, with the Prophets of the Most High. There were but very few men that attained the warm personal relation that he attained to and maintained most successfully with the Prophet Joseph Smith till he died, and then the story of that personal affection was consummated by the bullets he received in Carthage jail with the Prophet when he was slain. President Taylor was himself disabled. In the scene that he then passed through he experienced all that pertains to martyrdom. He never suffered greater pain or more severe greater than he experienced in the jail with the Prophet Joseph. But it was not appointed for him to give up the ghost then. He had to wait another 40 years so that he might show forth his magnanimity, his priesthood and his fervor, and be a blessing to God's people in these valleys of the mountains. At another time when President Taylor was laboring in New York he went to work and with faith and the co-operation of such brethren as he could find, established a paper, and published it in New York—one of the most successful enterprises of the kind that was ever undertaken in the last days. Some of the papers of New York undertook to run him out, thinking New York belonged to them. They dared President Taylor to an investigation. He proposed to meet as many of them as pleased to attend; but he met them with so magnanimous a heart and so full a hand, that they declined the opportunity to meet him. I cite these instances of the high moral bravery that President Taylor possessed anywhere, everywhere and at all times in behalf of the truth while traveling and laboring in various countries. This has been his spirit and feeling. And while he has been of this magnanimous character, he has always entertained the most profound regard for legitimate authority. No man delighted more to receive and obey the counsel of those over him. (This he did with the Prophet Joseph, although some of the counsels given him tested him and many of his brethren to the innermost soul and to the veritable life itself. President Taylor always delighted to serve the people. It was a notable trait in his character that he was not addicted to hankering after money. Many men could see a sovereign or a half eagle a long way farther off than he could. He sought for the riches of eternal life. Blessed be God he is rich in the possession of the knowledge he attained, and the skill and integrity which he exercised and the authority with which he was entrusted, until he has taken his departure and gone hence. President Taylor entertained the most profound regard for the superiority of the principles of the American government as embodied in the holy constitution and the just laws of the land. I recollect well when the news arrived of the passage of those laws which have lately engaged the attention of the people, now with what consideration he sat down and conversed with myself and others upon that subject, and how he carefully and prayerfully adjusted the affairs of his household in a way that, in the honesty of his heart and the magnanimity of his soul, he felt no man nor no government could take exceptions to. He felt to place himself in conformity with the law. He would rather do that than that any issue should arise. He therefore gladly bade family, kindred and friends adieu and went into retirement, went where, under certain circumstances, he could still serve his brethren, still counsel them in the ways of life, still advise them as a man who was entrusted with the keys of eternal life to the human family, and this he did, blessed be God! until the day of his death. And it will be pleasant to some who are present to know that President Taylor has not died of organic disease. He has died from the legitimate consequences of confinement, of limitation from exercise, just as everybody else would do if they were limited and could not get exercise. Their candle would go out for want of oil; the fires of their life would go out for want of fuel. He has attained to the age of four score, and the Lord has permitted him to finish his days in this land, to a great degree, happy manner, notwithstanding the unfavorable circumstances which surrounded him. When we recount the activity of his life, when we contemplate the dignity of his character and of his course, and how exceptional it has been, what an example it is for us! Should we not be tending upward too, and continually so? But President Taylor, by the blessing of God, was placed in a position where he was not only a father and protector to his family, but God made him a great benefactor to many of the human race. There are numbers here to-day before me who have been brought from distant lands—lands where poverty and want looked them in the face, and they have been brought to this land where there is room for enterprise and industry, whereby mul-

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