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REMARKS

MADE BY

ELDER ABRAHAM H. CANNON,

at the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Sunday, December 25th, 1892.

[REPORTED BY ARTHUR WINTERS.]

I trust, my brethren and sisters, that the Spirit of God may rest upon me while I address you for a few moments. The testimony of Elder Junius F. Wells, to which we have listened, should certainly make a deep impression upon our hearts. If what he has said is the truth, then those who reject it are in great danger, and those who accept his testimony are in the way of life eternal. Testimonies similar to that which we have heard have been borne among many nations by the Elders of this Church. The result has been the gathering together of the Latter-day Saints. They have felt impressed by the humble words of the Elders of the Church, and have put to the test that which they have said. The result has been that the Spirit of God, which, as we are told in the scripture, is to be poured out in the latter days upon all flesh, has filled their souls with a testimony of the truth, and they in turn have known, as the Elders knew who brought the Gospel to them, that God indeed had again spoken from heaven, and had revealed His mind and will to the children of men.

But while we have done some little in the preaching of the word to the people of the earth, our labors have commenced in that direction. It needs but slight consideration to remind us of the millions of people who have yet to hear this Gospel preached unto them before the end comes. Many nations are without the teaches of the truth today. Many nations are without the Elders of the Church. Yet we are told that the testimony must go forth in the latter days to the end of the earth; that all kindreds, and nations, and tongues and people must hear these glad tidings, and must receive or reject the same as they are moved upon by the spirit which possesses them. In contemplation of this great work which still lies before us, how industriously we should be engaged in warning our neighbors, and in sending forth the written word where it is impossible for the truth to be carried by the servants of God, that in the day of God's judgment the people may be left without excuse. Yet each succeeding year shows that we have made some advancement in the work which has been entrusted to us. Upon this day we can look back over the year that is past, and we can see that some progress has been made by the Church of which we are members. We have had our trials, we have had difficulties to meet, there have been obstacles placed in our way; and yet there has been an unseen power guiding and directing the Church, as well as individuals, so that today we see in some measure the success which has followed the work of God upon the earth; and as the year roll by and the purposes of God develop, greater strides will be made by this Church, which the Lord has established upon the earth for the salvation of His children. Blessed are they who can retain sufficient faith and can stand in such close communion with the Eternal Father that they may be prepared for the changes which will come to this people—greater perhaps and more abundant than any we have seen during the sixty-three years of the existence of this Church. We have learned much during this period. The trials which today we are able to surmount would a few years ago have set many away from the truth. We reflect upon the incidents connected with the early history of the Church, and we are sometimes astonished at the trivial things which have led people into apostasy. We wonder how it was possible for men with such built up gifts and with so many testimonies as the early Elders received, to turn away from the truth because of the things which they had to meet. But we must remember that the Church was in its infancy. Men and women were unaccustomed to trials. They were not so familiar with the providences of God as we today are, and the slightest occurrence had its effect upon the community. Men and women apostatized. I believe, more readily and more easily in the early days than at the present time. Just as children are unable to endure the fatigue and the exertions which are easy for mature men and women to endure and to perform, so it was in the Church in the spiritual things of the Kingdom of God. As we overcome one difficulty, as we are successful in surmounting one obstacle, it prepares us for a greater one, which it is necessary for us to meet in order that we may be tried in all things, and thus become prepared for the glorious destiny which God has marked out for His people.

This day has brought many reflections to my mind. It seems to me as a day when our hearts should be melted within us in gratitude to God for the numerous blessings which we have received at His hands; a day when our hearts should be softened one towards another; when there should be no hard feelings existing among the Latter-day Saints, nor towards those who do not belong to their faith; when there should be indeed upon earth, peace and good will, so that in the heart of every soul the praise may ascend unto God, glory to God in the highest, for a son is born unto men; a Messiah has come to the earth and brought redemption to the human family.

It seems to me that this is a time when all past animosities should be buried, every feeling that is not Christ-like should be removed, and the example which our Savior set us should be so firmly impressed upon our hearts that it will constrain us in the future to seek the service of our fellowmen; to seek to do them good, instead of harm; that if we have wronged a brother or a sister in the past, it may come up before us this day and inspire in our hearts a feeling of repentance for that wrong, and a determination upon our part that we will, to the extent of our power, make good the wrong which we have done. If we have taken that from our fellowman which did not belong to us, that the Spirit of God may move upon our hearts to such an extent that we will be willing not only to restore the thing which we have taken, but fourfold in value; and that we will, if it takes everything that we possess on the earth, or if it humbles us in the dust before our fellowmen, alone here upon the earth for the sins which we have committed; that when the day comes that the voice shall go forth that we are to go home and meet our Father to give an account for the deeds done in the body, we shall have made atonement on earth as far as it lay in our power for the sins which we have committed. Then we can appear before our Maker feeling that His mercy will be extended towards us for our weaknesses and imperfections to which all flesh is heir. This day should cause us to reflect upon our situation, and the place we occupy in the hearts of our fellowmen. Have we wronged them? Have we given them offense? Have we placed ourselves in a position that they can justly think that we have misused the Priesthood which God has given us? Have we exercised unrighteous dominion over our fellows? If so, this day, of all others, which is celebrated as the birthday of our Savior, should move upon our hearts to consider our position and amend our ways, that the future may find us more strictly following the path which God has marked out for His servants to pursue.

This glorious Gospel has made of us one family. It has brought the high man down into a humble position. It has brought the exalted man who have received its teachings down and put him on a level with the poor man who has had scarcely sufficient food to keep soul and body together. It has made of us a common brotherhood. We are the children of God. We know that He is our Father, and though there may exist among men a difference of degree, a difference of position, a difference of wealth, yet in the Church and in the sight of God we are equal, we are one, we are brothers and sisters. We cannot afford, therefore, in view of these things, to deal unjustly one with another, to offend each other, to create divisions among us, or to have our hearts set one against another. Our power will be weakened if we do so. It seems to me that if there is any testimony necessary to convince the world that a reformation has commenced such as has never occurred in the earth, it is the fact that this Gospel of the kingdom is being preached to the poor among men. When the disciples of John went to learn if Jesus was the dead man raised, the word was sent back, as evidence that He was, that the poor among men had the Gospel preached unto them. Oh, if it were not for this Gospel of the Son of God how terrible would be the condition of the poor in the world today! We can look abroad and see the oppression that exists in the world among those who know not Christ, and a feeling that men who possess wealth are to add thereto regardless of the suffering which it entails upon their fellowmen; where we see the hand of oppression lay heavily upon those whom is distresses, where can we turn for hope, or find peace and joy, except in this Gospel of the Son of God, which teaches us that it is necessary for men to impart of their substance unto the poor and needy, that there may be no suffering among the children of God? Does it not lift up our hearts and fill them with praise and thanksgiving to the great Creator, who has devised such a plan for the temporal salvation as well as the eternal exaltation of His children?

And as no standard of wealth has been set up by which men are measured who enter this Church, so, too, no standard of education is necessary for a person to enter into the fold of Christ. The ignorant, the unlearned, the unlettered, are as welcome to the Church and to the fellowship of the Spirit of God as are the most wise among men. Yet the Gospel teaches us that we cannot be saved in ignorance; that we cannot remain as ignorant people and receive our exaltation. But it is a fact that as soon as a person joins the Church and receives the truth, immediately a spirit takes possession of him to advance and progress in knowledge and understanding. Joseph Smith, the exalted, the noble, yet, so, to turn away from the truth because of the things which they had to meet. But we must remember that the Church was in its infancy. Men and women were unaccustomed to trials. They were not so familiar with the providences of God as we today are, and the slightest occurrence had its effect upon the community. Men and women apostatized. I believe, more readily and more easily in the early days than at the present time. Just as children are unable to endure the fatigue and the exertions which are easy for mature men and women to endure and to perform, so it was in the Church in the spiritual things of the Kingdom of God. As we overcome one difficulty, as we are successful in surmounting one obstacle, it prepares us for a greater one, which it is necessary for us to meet in order that we may be tried in all things, and thus become prepared for the glorious destiny which God has marked out for His people.

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My brethren and sisters, I feel that we should show to the world the charity which we ask at their hands. We should not condemn them for their faults; we should not curse them for their transgressions; we should not utter anathemas against them because they do not see and understand as we do. If we have received greater blessings and knowledge, it has been through the mercy and favor of God to us, His poor children; and He knows how weak and feeble we are, and how unworthy we are of the great blessings which He bestows upon us. If we could only turn our eyes inward, and when we attempt to blacken the characters or misjudge the acts of our fellows, if we could see our own weakness and scan our own imperfections, it would at least restrain us from saying those things which would hurt our brother or injure his character. Let us strive to be governed in all things by the Spirit of God, that one year hence we may look back with pleasure upon our individual lives, and also be able to greatly assist in the work of God and see the progress which His Church has made upon the earth. May this be our blessing from God upon this day and throughout the future, is my prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Funeral of Justice Lamar.

MACON, Ga., Jan. 27.—The funeral of Supreme Justice L. Q. C. Lamar occurred this afternoon. In the morning eulogies were pronounced at the opera house by members of the state bar. Then services were held at the Methodist church. The funeral services were preached by Dr. Chandler, president of Emory College. Chief Justice Fuller and the associate justices were present. Thousands of people were unable to gain admission to the church. Thousands of others gathered along the route to the cemetery where the interment took place.

A public meeting was held under the auspices of the Georgia Bar association prior to the religious ceremonies. Resolutions of respect were adopted by a rising vote. Brief eulogies were also delivered by Attorney General Ferrell, Judge Bartlett and Judge Speer, and other distinguished jurist. At the church the address of Dr. Chandler was both eloquent and appropriate. He reviewed the college career of the dead jurist, and dwelt at some length upon his remarkable energy and devotion to duty. At the cemetery a short burial service was read.

Killed by a Bank Robber.

WAVERLY, Kan., Jan. 27.—This afternoon, as Cashier Duvall and Assistant Converse were balancing the books preparatory to closing the bank of Waverly, two masked men entered and covered them with revolvers. One of the men proceeded to rob the cash drawers and had gone into the vault when a man entered the bank to make a deposit. Seeing the situation he withdrew, and the robber, guarding the official, also fled, as did the man in the vault upon discovering the situation. In the meantime the business men of the block were aroused, and arming themselves secured the bank in time to see the robbers disappear in the alley, where they had horses. After mounting, one of the highwaymen turned in his saddle and fired, instantly killing A. P. Ingelmann. A general fusilade followed without damage to either side, the robbers escaping to the westward. A mounted posse was hurriedly organized and overtook the men two miles from Leto, where another battle occurred, and the robbers only surrendered when their horses were shot from under them and their ammunition was exhausted. They were bound and taken to Leto and placed in the hands of a constable for safe keeping, they being carefully guarded. They only secured $630 and that was recovered.

Decision in a Mining Case.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Jan. 27.—The supreme court has rendered a decision in the case of the Waterville Mining company, the owner of the Black Eagle mine, vs. the owners of the Big Comet mine. The owners of the Big Comet followed a vein of the Black Eagle and the latter corporation began suit in ejectment. The lower court decided in favor of the defendant, basing its finding on four decisions of the supreme court of Colorado and one by United States District Judge Hallet of that state, who construed section 2336 revised statutes to apply to the crossing of veins on the strike. The case was appealed and appellants pointed to the fact that section 2322, which applies to transverse veins, is directly opposed to the theory of the Colorado courts and was virtually appealed by those decisions. The supreme court took a similar view of the case and reversed the judgment of the lower court. The decision is regarded by mining men as of the highest importance, overturning the construction of the mining law which has prevailed since 1879.

BLAINE'S DEATH

The Sad News Received with Sorrow Everywhere.

TRIBUTES OF AFFECTION.

The Announcements Made in the Senate and House.

MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE.

Depew Said, He Left no Successor.—Democrats and Republicans Mourn Together.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The news of Blaine's death spread through the departments with startling rapidity. While it created a profound feeling everywhere, the feeling was intensified in the state department, where there was hardly an official or an employe who had not a personal acquaintance with the dead man. Although the event was daily expected and every one was in a measure prepared for the reception of the sad news it was a shock to every one. It was a noticeable fact, as indicative of the character of the man who for two terms held the highest position in the Cabinet, that he never again passed under the portals of the state department after the day of his resignation. Those who have been long in the state department, and knew Blaine when he was at his best, recognized with sorrow, during his last service there, the remarkable change in his physical condition.

President Harrison said the news of Blaine's death made a very profound impression on him. While recognizing the fact that his ultimate recovery was improbable, still he was wholly unprepared for it, and the announcement was a great shock to him. He felt unable, under the circumstances, to enter upon the consideration of any public business with the members of his cabinet, and therefore, after an expression of regret and sorrow at the loss sustained by themselves and the country in Blaine's death, the meeting of the cabinet adjourned.

The associates of Blaine paid the following tributes of affection and esteem to his memory:

SECRETARY OF STATE FOSTER.

In diplomacy his chief characteristic was his exalted Americanism. He was a thorough believer in the Monroe doctrine, and reciprocity, which distinguished the close of his public career, was the outgrowth of his convictions respecting this doctrine. His diplomatic correspondence will rank among the best of his political productions. His reputation abroad will mainly rest upon his acts as secretary of state, and it is no exaggeration to say that in the past ten years at least he has been the best known American in foreign lands.

SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY FOSTER.

His career has been one of leadership, and without doubt he possessed the confidence, respect and affection of a vast majority of the American people more than any man of his time. His fame was world-wide. His personal popularity and his hold upon the popular affection is not confined to his own party. His death will be sincerely mourned.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL MILLER.

With reference to Blaine it may be truly said that his failure to be President was an accident. At the funeral of Daniel Webster one of his neighbors looking on the face of the dead statesman said: "The dead Webster will be world will be lonesome without you." The same may with propriety be said of James G. Blaine.

SECRETARY TRACY.

Blaine, with the possible exception exception of Henry Clay, was the most brilliant statesman and political leader the country ever produced. He was a born leader of men and richly endowed by nature with all the qualities that make a great statesman.

SECRETARY NOBLE.

James G. Blaine held the attention and commanded the respect of his country to a most extraordinary degree; more, I think, than any other political leader since Lincoln or Henry Clay. His death will be greatly lamented, and the whole nation will do his memory honor. His office will not be in this country.

SECRETARY ELKINS.

Blaine was a wonderful man and wonderfully gifted. He was one of the greatest statesmen and political leaders the country ever produced, and the most conspicuous leader of his time. His loss will be widely felt and mourned, but his life will be a continuous inspiration to his party.

POSTMASTER GENERAL WANAMAKER.

Pennsylvania may be proud of her brilliant son, cleverer than Henry Clay and as eloquent as Daniel Webster. As an all around statesman, his name will always be cherished with the greatest Americans.

SECRETARY RUSK.

I have no hesitation in saying that in many respects Blaine outranked any of his contemporaries, and none wielded greater influence in shaping the fortunes of the Republican party. His death, while not unexpected, will be a great shock to the people of the whole nation, irrespective of political sentiments.

HIS RESIGNATION.

A gentleman who was intimately associated with Blaine said that at 12 o'clock, the day of Blaine's resignation, it was given out he had no idea of resigning from the cabinet. At that hour he went home and filed his resignation. Later in the day he called at the White house and had a long interview with President Harrison. Subsequently he called at the state department and had a long interview with Secretary Foster. Late in the afternoon he called at the White house and had another long interview with the President. Late in the evening he called at the state department and had another long interview with Secretary Foster. At no time during the day was he in a condition to transact any business. He was very nervous and excited, and was in a state of great mental anxiety. He was not in a condition to write a letter of any length, much less a letter of such importance as his resignation. He was not in a condition to discuss the question of his resignation with any one except the President and Secretary Foster