R E M A R K S

                                       By Prest. Brigham Young, at the funeral of Prest.

Jedediah M. Grant,

      Tabernacle, Thursday, December. 4th. 1856.

We expected that this congregation would have been assembled and seated by 10 o'clock, or by a quarter past ten at the latest; it is now 12, lacking five minutes, and near the time when we should be moving to the place of burial.

The time is so far advanced that I shall not presume to answer my feelings, in my remarks on this occasion.  I expected to have had time enough for offering some of my feelings and views, with regard to the living and the dead.  True, it would take me a long time to reveal to you what is in my heart, but I expected to have had time to bestow a portion thereof on this congregation.

I will say to those here assembled, and especially to those more immediately connected with br. Grant in the capacity of a family, you have no cause for mourning, neither have we.  True, we were very fond of the company and society of br. Grant; br Jedediah was a man we all loved, and we would have liked to have had him staid with us; we would have been pleased in longer enjoying his society here.

But this our place of abode is only temporary; we are on a journey; we have only to winter and summer, as it were.  Br. Grant has got through here, and has gone to his spiritual place of abode, for a season.  Not that he has  reached his journey's end, nor will he, until he has again received this body that now lies before me.  Every material part and portion pertaining to this body, to the temporal organization that constitutes the man, will clothe his spirit again, before he is prepared to receive the place and habitation that is prepared for him, yet he has gon to his spiritual home for a season

I am aware of the feelings of families and friends on such occasions.  Many times I can govern and control my feelings, at other times I cannot.  When I can control my own feelings, I can collect my thoughts and express my ideas as clearly as my language will permit.

In the few remarks that I will make to-day, I will not go to the Bible, to the Book of Mormon, nor to the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, for my text, for I will give you a text which comprehend the sermon also. so that if I do not dwell directly upon it I trust that what I say will be true, for it will be incorporated in my text, and the text alone will be a sermon.

On this occasion I will say, as on other occasions, blessed are they that hear the gospel of salvation, believe it, embrace it and live it all its precepts.  That is the text and a whole sermon in and of itself.  Time will not permit me to tell, only in part wherein they are blessed, how with what they will be blessed, for it takes a life time to prepare for this blessing.

Some people would have to be a hundred years of age, in order to be as ripe in the things of God as was br. Grant. whose body now lies lifeless before us; to be as ripe as was the spirit which lately inhabited this deserted earthly tabernacle.

There are but few that can ripen for the glory, the immortality that is prepared for the faithful; for receiving all that was purchased for them by the Son of God; but very few can receive what br. Grant has receive in his life time.  He has been in the Church upwards of twenty four years, and was a man that would live, comparatively speaking, a hundred years in that time.  The storehouse that was prepared in him to receive the truth, was capable of receiving as much in twenty five years as most of men in one hundred.

Though we might say that the time has been short which he has had to prepare himself in the flesh for receiving all that is treasured up for the faithful, yet there are but few men in the church that ever will be prepared to receive what he will receive, though they live thirty, fifty, seventy five, or a hundred years, or to the coming of the Son of Man; there are but few men that will be prepared to receive the same degree of glory and exaltation that br. Jedediah will receive.  This may be attributed to the peculiar organization of man.

It is not every man that is capable of filling every station, though there is no man but what is capable of filling his proper station, and that, too, with dignity and honor to himself.  When you find a person that is capable of receiving light and wisdom, one that can descend to the capacity of the weakest of the weak and can comprehend the most noble and highest intelligence that can be obtained by man, can receive it with all ease and comprehend it, circumscribe it, understand it from first to last, that is the man that can ripen for eternity in a few years: that is the individual who is capable of occupying stations that many cannot occupy.

Br. Grant we were well acquainted with, and there is no person but what laments his departure from this world.  But what will we mourn for?  I want to ask myself that question, as I have a great many times.  What will you mourn for, because br. Grant has gon where he can do more good?  No, we will not mourn for that.  Will we mourn because he has overcome all his enemies here, all that are opposed to Jesus Christ and to his gospel, because he has won the prize?  Will we mourn for that?

He is prepared to dwell with Prophets, with br. Joseph, with the ancient apostles, with Moses, with Abraham, and to dwell in the presence of Jesus Christ.  We will not mourn for that.  What will we mourn for?  He has lost nothing, but has gained all.

Why do we mourn?  Perhaps it will be difficult for me to tell you, yet I know.  It is not the knowledge that God has given you or me that causes us to mourn; it is not the Spirit of the gospel that produces within us a mournful feeling; it is not the Spirit of Christ, the knowledge of eternity, of God, or of the way of life and salvation.  Our mourning procceeds from none of those causes.  What causes us to mourn?  Neither more nor less, to me and so far as I can convey my idea by language, than the earthly weakness that is in us.  It is not the knowledge of the Almighty, the power of God, the light of eternity, but it is the darkness, the weakness, the ignorance, the want of of that eternal knowledge, so far as I can conceive, that makes any person mourn here on the earth