

RESPECT TO THE DEAD—PRE-EXISTENCE THE KEY TO THIS—THE
 FUTURE LIFE DEPENDS ON THIS—THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS
 DEPENDENT UPON REVELATION FOR THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF
 THESE THINGS—LIFE PERSECUTIONS AS NOTHING, CONTRASTED
 WITH THE PROMISES PERTAINING TO THE FUTURE—MEN'S
 FUTURE GLORIES AS ARE THE LAWS THEY ABIDE

A FUNERAL SERMON, PREACHED BY ELDER JOHN TAYLOR, DELIVERED AT THE 14TH WARD
 ASSEMBLY ROOMS, SALT LAKE CITY, SUNDAY, DEC. 31, 1876, OVER THE REMAINS OF SISTER
 MARY ANN, THE BELOVED WIFE OF ELDER GEORGE E. BOURNE

Reported by Geo. F. Gibbs

We are met together on this occasion, as we frequently are called upon to do, to pay our last respects to the departed dead. This is one of the incidents connected with humanity, and one that always commands our serious attention. There has an immutable decree gone forth from the Almighty, that man must die; and it matters not what our standing in society or station in life may be, all alike must submit to the divine behest.

When we look back to the generations that have passed, letting our minds wander through the various ages that have transpired since the commencement of the human family upon the earth, we see, as it were, multitudes of human beings who have had their entrance into and exit from this world, a great rolling wave of human life coming and going. They have existed simply for a short time, mingling with and operating among their fellow beings, and then they

have faded away, their bodies have decayed and returned to mother earth, while they themselves have left this world and gone into another state of existence.

We might bring this reflection a little nearer home, by inquiring, How many are there yet living of my acquaintances who were in existence when I was born? But few comparatively; and so it is with a great many others. We come into the world, we think and reflect, we act and operate, we carry out certain ideas, plans and calculations, we live but a short time and then die, leaving all things with which we were connected pretty much as they were when we came here.

We frequently talk of the advancements made in society and the progression of the world generally in intelligence, in science, in literature, etc. But what is all that to the man when he is about to leave his earthly tenement, to go hence? Of what