

FUNERAL SERVICES
OF
LOUISA BENSON PARKINSON

SUNDAY, JULY 17, 1960

AT
sevenths
TWENTY-NINTH WARD
27
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

BISHOP Joel Richards presided.

ORGAN INTERLUDE played by Beatrice Davies

OPENING PRAYER was given by Serge F. Baliff.

VIOLIN SOLO "Howe But The Lonely Heart" played by William Hartman, accompanied by Frances Osborne.

FIRST SPEAKER John T. Cain.

MUSICAL SELECTION, vocal solo, "Going Home" sung by Clyde Jorgensen.

SECOND SPEAKER Sylvester G. Cannon.

**VOCAL DUET "Resignation" and
Sung by Annette H. Dinwoody and Virginia F. Barker.**

BISHOP Joel Richards delivered short sermon.

VOCAL DUET

BENEDICTION Pronounced by Charles Goslin.

DEDICATION OF GRAVE given by Serge B. Benson.

*Funeral Service of Louisa Benson Parkinson
Salt Lake City, Utah*

First Speaker, John T. Cain

In the Fall of the year 1877 after a number of rather insignificant incidents had happened, I met a young woman who immediately made an impression on me and the association with her made it possible for me to know Louisa Benson Parkinson. This young woman was Sister Parkinson's aunt. While not always near to Sister Parkinson, I have known her or of her all my life, and as I think of her now, I have nothing but admiration for what she has accomplished.

A few years after meeting her, I went to Logan. They lived in Whitney and Lulu spent most of her time there even, in fact, after she was married. As my family used to have their summer outing up there, we met and were together for at least a week once each year and if they visited in Logan they always came to see us.

If it can be said, and it surely can be, that, "By their fruits ye shall know them," I would say that anybody of sane judgment who would look at Lulu's family today would say that she has done well for the world. I often wonder about the men and women who are refusing now to have children; the women perhaps who seek careers away from family affairs; if such a woman were faced with Lulu Parkinson's family as they are today, I wonder if she would say that her career is equal to Lulu's triumph in life. I am sure that to any real woman such triumphs are not sufficient.

Lulu realized her duty to her family. She did what God expected her to do. She raised most of her children. I think one grown daughter died some few years ago. I don't know of a family where there are so many beautiful young women; intelligent, efficient in their work, all willing to do their part in the work of the world. They are really a contribution to the welfare of this part of the earth. I really wish that many women could see what has been accomplished in this family. Of course, I am an old man and regarded as an old fogey and not able to understand modern conditions, but then when I go back over my life and think of the fine women I have known, many of the women with large families (there were many who had from six to ten to twelve), I am proud of their accomplishments. But these women didn't complain when all those children came. They would really sacrifice for the baby. Those old-time mothers were very wonderful human beings and as far as I can see they accomplished what God wanted them to accomplish.

There are many people who think they are doing right by not bringing children into the world, but what government anywhere would say that the population should perish. The government depends upon the people for its success, its prosperity and in many sections our population is going to decrease. That isn't the present prospect, but, of course, we feel that we can do as we please, that we can do this or that or something else. We are being possessed by ideas.

And so I believe today perhaps the most glorifying tribute that would be paid to Sister Lulu is the fact of her very fine family, not only her immediate family but her grandchildren and I believe there are already some great grandchildren. And I am sure that the ancestry are working to carry on and are going to continue to be worthwhile men and women, good citizens, and will do their part in supporting the welfare of the community in which they live.

I never remembered Lulu to complain of her hardships. I am sure that never in her soul did she wish there hadn't been so many children and that she

didn't enjoy her responsibilities. The Benson family are a very affectionate family, anyway, to each other and to their immediate friends, and so it was always a pleasure to meet Lulu and the other members of the family.

I discovered when I came down yesterday that the family did not know that quite some time ago, twenty or thirty years ago, that Lulu and I were standing near her home at Whitney and that day she said to me, "Uncle T, if you are alive when I pass away, I would like to have you speak at my funeral."

When I mentioned that today none of them had known she said it - I guess Lulu had forgotten herself. She loved me and I loved her. She was always very affectionate to me. As I say, I never knew her to complain of her lot, but she had many hardships and her high blood pressure made her health very bad.

She was a little older than I thought she was but I was old enough to get acquainted with her and I am proud of that acquaintance and I am glad to stand here today and I pray that her memory will live. I pray that they will always remember her, the sacrifices she made, the willingness with which she met all the sacrifices that came to her and may God bless all the descendants.

I often think of my days when I was a child that death was considered an awful phenomenon. People were afraid of it, people feared to go anywhere where there was a dead body. That was an inheritance from the Middle Ages. What a blessing it is that today we can go where a deceased person is and go fearless, peaceful and quiet.

I pray that God will bless all the descendants, all of you brothers and sisters, and that as we go from places like this we will make our lives more adapted to things as God would have it. And I ask it humbly in Christ's name, Amen.

Second Speaker, Sylvester Q. Cannon

I should like to read to you a few words expressed by the wise man Solomon. "You go find a virtuous woman for her price is far above everything else." The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her. She works with her hands; she bringeth him food from afar. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor, she reacheth out her hand to the needy; strength and honor are her glory; she openeth her mouth for wisdom and her tongue is the law of kindness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also and he praiseth her. A woman that cheereth the lot she shall be blessed. Give her of the fruits of her hands and let her own works praise her in the last."

I think that is tribute enough to Sister Parkinson. These she possessed-- these qualities that are here expressed. I didn't have the pleasure of knowing her for many years as Brother Cain did, but in the few years I did know her, I found she had some very important qualities and I am told that we are judged by our qualities. I wish to express some characteristic qualities relative to her life. We are not here to testify to the loyalty of this great cause, character.

Theodore Roosevelt says on character: "A sound body is a first class thing, a sound mind is an even better thing, but the thing that counts for most in the individual as in the nation is character--the quality that makes a man a good man and a woman a good woman."

Quote: "No man is worth his salt who is not ready at all times to risk his body, to risk his being, to risk his very life in this great cause."

She was loyal in this great cause and she was willing to give her life.

A Senator once said, "Loyalty is the greatest quality in a human heart. Let everyone fasten himself or herself to some great idea, some life cause, some noble cause." This cause Sister Parkinson has followed. The Gospel of Jesus Christ has blessed her and caused her to go forth with strength and energy to reach not only the things of the present but the things of eternity. She has a fine heritage, the daughter of George T. Benson and Louisa Barrett. She came of sturdy stock. In the lives of these families you find qualities which are necessary for the building of communities. She had a good name. These families produced a good name because of their lives.

Solomon says that a good name is better than precious ointment.

Shakespeare says the biggest treasure that mortals are assured is a spotless reputation.

These families from whom she came had good reputations and good names and that inheritance was a great blessing to her and to her children. Her grandfather was one of the original pioneers, a community builder and a missionary. He traveled abroad and at one time went to Hawaii. He was drowned in a channel but was revived and brought back to life. The children are blessed because of their ancestors' fine qualities; because of their mother and because of their father, William T. Parkinson. He was a just man, just with the same continuous desire to render that which is due.

Sylvester Q. Cannon
Second Speaker, Continued

Fairness, a desire to do right, to be considerate, justice for truth in action--what finer qualities could man possess than that. In dealing with our wives and children, we should be just and considerate, fine and true. He was honorable, loyal; he was successful in being able to get the trust and faith of his entire family. He was a bishop for several years and it was said of him that he was a most benevolent bishop.

Sister Parkinson had what has been referred to as an outstanding quality--that of motherhood. She was an ideal mother and won the love and confidence of all her children and her mother.

God thought to give the sweetest knowledge of power to her. He moved the gates of Heaven above and gave the world a mother. Women represent man's only motherhood. All life begins and ends there.

Sister Parkinson bore a splendid family, one son and seven fine daughters bear her name and the name of her husband. If they live up to the heritage which they possess, they will have a fine life and character. Sister Parkinson was a home maker. Hubbard has said that home is where the heart is. All of her children yearn for that home and they are very anxious to come to that home and be with their mother.

If every home in this community and every home in the community of this nation were the type of Sister Parkinson's, if love and consideration and kindness prevailed in the community, then this nation would be a much more pleasant nation than it is today. She was not in public life. She gave her entire time to her family and the way that she lived is evident by the fine qualities possessed by her children. She made her home happy and that is the reason that everyone went to her home. She was kind as expressed by Solomon; she stretched out her hand to the needy and she was considerate. While her circle of friends was not so large, the ones that knew her were won over by her love and consideration.

The sanctity and elevation of the family and family life are the ultimate ends of all trial. We realize that the family is a divine institution. When properly bound together in accordance with the plan and revelation given by the Lord, it promises greater joy in larger measure than it does in this mortal life.

Another quality she possessed was her devotion to her husband. She was implicitly devoted to him. She trained her children in loyalty and love for their father; there, therefore, resulted love and unity. The family is the unit of society. Unless the family is maintained in righteousness this nation cannot endure nor can any other nation endure. It is very vital that we should take a lesson from her life, that we should live up to the standards that are entailed upon us to raise a family.

She was trustworthy. She was worthy of every consideration. She had a wonderful philosophy as do all those who have faith in the Gospel. She had faith that there is a divine purpose in all things.

Sylvester Q. Cannon
Second Speaker, Continued

That our nature craves is not mere inspiration but some supreme service that will guide all our powers and give unity to life. We are not here as cattle or as beings who have no further extensions. This is just a step in our eternal lives. If we realize the divine purpose that placed us here, we shall grow each hour. Strive for bigger and better things that will enable us to live not only here in bigger and better ways but in the hereafter. That was her philosophy.

I have faith that this principle is true and that it is divine; that she and all who pass from this life are living and enjoying all the powers of their minds that they possessed here and are awaiting the time when they shall be resurrected from the dead. And those that are faithful and have lived up to the truths of righteousness, they shall come forth in the first resurrection and be clothed upon with glory and with eternal life.

She had faith in the Eternal Marriage Covenant that she and her husband and her children were bound together and that it cannot be broken only through unrighteousness. It is a wonderful opportunity and privilege to live and to strive to live that doctrine.

She believed in the Lord, Jesus Christ. She believed the words of the Savior when He said "I am the resurrection and the life." She acknowledged the Prophet Joseph Smith as a true Prophet of the Lord who has restored the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the earth. It was her hope that everyone of her children should live up to the Gospel and I think her desires are being realized.

I pray that the power of the Lord will be with you in this hour of trial and suffering and these blessings I pray for in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Third Speaker, Bishop Joel Richards

Quote: "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes and there shall be no more death or sorrow or crying, neither shall there be any more pain for those things are passed away. He that overcometh shall inherit all these and I will be his God and he shall be my son."

This can excellently and truly be said of the faithful Sister Parkinson. She has overcome all these and she is entitled to that exaltation of glory and peace that others eyes have not seen nor ears heard, neither entered into the heart of man that thing that God hath prepared for them. Love - you have heard that Sister Parkinson loved God and his Son Jesus Christ. What a glorious reunion that must be over there - going home!

I should like to read just a few words to you of what President Brigham Young once said. He said, "Where is the Spirit World? It is right here, it is upon this earth. That is, of course, the part that does have life upon it. Can you see spirits in this room? No, but suppose the Lord should touch your eyes that you might see, could you see the spirits? Yes, as plainly as you now see bodies. If the Lord would permit it, you could see the spirits that have deceased from this world, you could see them as easily as you see bodies."

As has been expressed, we live before we get into this present existence. Our birth and our mortality is our birth into our second existence. God has designed that we should come here and pass through all these experiences and have this mortal tabernacle that we might pass through exalted into his kingdom. They who complete their first existence shall be added upon and they that complete their second existence shall have glory added upon their heads forever and ever. Sister Parkinson has completed her first and second existence and is now ready to have that added glory forever and ever.

Sister Parkinson still lives. This body is awaiting the time of the Resurrection when it shall become an immortal body - never more to suffer dissolution or separation. "Man is that he might have joy and man cannot hope for the fullness of joy unless the spirit and the body are inseparably connected in the spirit of the Resurrection."

There is not the slightest doubt in my mind when I say that I know that I live, that our loved ones continue to live, and that they are near us and that we are able to feel their nearness and their promptings from time to time. If we could see that glorious reunion, our tears would be dried. There is not one, no matter how dearly we loved her, that would call her back and break that happy reunion over there. I am grateful for the testimony that God has planted in the hearts of his children. I hope that you can bear the testimony when he said that, "My words are not all written for I know that my Redeemer liveth. Though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God."

Sister Parkinson was sealed to her husband for time and eternity. They will go on like they are now forever and ever. When these children leave this existence and go to the other side, they will have their father and mother there to welcome them with open arms. Their place will be prepared for them. I suggest that they have no anxieties over her. My only suggestion is that they and these grandchildren may live as she lived.

Bishop Joel Richards

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May God bless you all to this end that you may follow in the footsteps of your illustrious father and mother and be worthy to go where they have gone and with this I pray most that you will have exaltation and glory beyond your power to comprehend at this time.

May God let his peace and comfort rest with these children and grandchildren and all you mourners on this occasion, I humbly pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Her name is Louise, "Lou" for short, and in her breast there beats the purest heart that ever man could win.

She has two eyes of skylight blue, look in their depths and you know they're true.

She has two hands so soft and white,

Her hair is the color of mooning night.

Her face is as clear as a mountain spring, tapering to a neck so white and clean.

She is like a soft white rose.

Her slender form in spotless clothes.

She was married when but eighteen when in the prime of youth,

She was the second wife she knew, but I think she was the best of the two, we'll leave that for God to judge when all is through.

She is the purest Mother that ever brought life into this world of blighting strife, she gave birth to three and seven with the help of great God in heaven.

She is my Mother I am proud to say, the dearest Mother on earth,

She is the one that suffered death, just on account of my birth.

her son Geo wrote this of his mother