

Government Reading Room

# The Alberta Star

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No. 51

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The Late Sylvester Low.

On Sunday evening at 7 p. m. the spirit of Sylvester Low, clerk of the Alberta Stake of Zion, left its mortal tabernacle and returned to the presence of that God who gave it. His demise was very sudden and came as a apopleptic stroke. Until within a few hours of his death, he was apparently as hale and hearty as he had been for many years. In fact he had stricken. His sudden death comes as a great surprise to the people of Cardston and he is universally mourned for he possessed one of the brightest spirits and amiable characters we have ever had the privilege of meeting. He was a man of culture and refinement, polite and affable in his manners and strikingly intelligent and well versed.

Sylvester Low was born near Dundee, Forfarshire, Scotland, March 12, 1836. We append the following from "Picturesque Cardston." "His parents being poor his chances for education were limited, but he acquired the rudiments by attending a rural parish school in winter seasons, having to herd cows among the broom and whinnos on the hills, and labor on a farm in summer time. He joined the church of Latter-Day Saints when eighteen years of age, and in April, 1855, he left his native land for America. He took up his residence in Utah and was an active member of the church whose faith he had espoused. Mr. Low has filled several missions with credit to himself, and in the city of Edinburgh, Scotland, he obtained the genealogy of forty-five thousand people who had passed away. He had labored in the different avocations of farmer, miller, school teacher, clerk and photographer throughout the length of years since boyhood. Mr. Low is blessed with eighteen sons and daughters, and twenty-nine grandsons and grand-daughters living, three of the former and also three of the latter, however, being dead. Mr. Low is at present clerk of the Alberta Stake of the "Mormon" church.

This was written 8 years ago and during that time he has occupied the position of clerk of the Alberta Stake of Zion which position he held at the time of his death. He was very diligent and painstaking in his work and found much joy in the transaction of his labors. His records are samples of splendid penmanship, clean composition and careful arrangement. Probably no better stake records are to be found in the church than those of Sylvester Low. The funeral services were held in the Assembly Hall on Tuesday afternoon, commencing at 2 p. m. It was not possible for any members of his family to be present from the States. The pall bearers were, President E. J. Wood, Thomas Duce, Sterling Williams, Patriarch John A. Woolf, Bishop Harris and Johannes Anderson, president of the High Council. The casket was beautifully decked with flowers. The choir sang for the opening hymn. "Resting now from care and sorrow." Invocation was offered by Elder James May. The choir again sang, "We lay thee softly down to sleep."

Patriarch John A. Woolf was the first speaker and he said, in part, as follows: Our loss here in the companionship of Brother Low is his gain. He has gone beyond all sorrow and pain to mingle with the just. He has fought the good fight and gone to obtain a crown of righteousness. We may do the same if we put our trust in God. I would like to say to the children and those who remain on the earth, "Be faithful and follow in the footsteps of your father that you may receive the welcome plaudit, "Well done good and faithful servant," which he has received. I have known brother Sylvester Low since the early sixties and I have always found him to be a just man and exceedingly zealous. He has always held some position in the church and ever been active in his callings. I realize that all is well with him and trust that we may live so that the same reward may be given to us. He will come forth in the morning of the first resurrection to share the immortality and everlasting life of those who have been faithful and true in the Gospel. President Thomas Duce said, in part, as follows: In the death of Sylvester Low the Lord has taken a great and good man to Himself. A loving father's place cannot be filled. It is true that the loss of the children and the wife is the gain of the father and the husband. My prayer for sister Low and the younger children is that they may follow in the footsteps of our departed brother. He has been a dear and personal friend of mine from the year 1867. He was a man always known for his integrity; for his honesty and for his promptness. I very well remember the confidence the

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owners of the Mill at Smithfield, Utah, had in him when he was milled there and the pride with which my father and I know that through

his honesty and his pains in transacting the business. He has been a faithful man, a man that has fought the fight and conquered in the name of the Lord. I have never known him to say "No" to any call that was ever made of him. His genealogical record was one of the largest and most accurate of any in the Logan Temple and day after day we have had occasion to refer to the thoroughness with which the same was kept. I could enumerate many instances of his exactness and his careful work. It gives me pride and pleasure to speak of his work as Stake Clerk in this land. His records are all in good shape and up-to-date in every particular. Brethren and sisters, there lies the remains of a faithful man—a rich man in the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God. He is worthy of every flower that bedecks his casket and more. He has minded his own business; he has loved peace; blessed be his name. His reward is sure for he has fought the good fight and remained faithful and true to the Gospel.

Elder William Wood of Magrath followed. He said that when the news reached him of the death of Sylvester Low it was like a thunder bolt for he was not aware at all of any illness which the deceased had had. "He was one of God's noblemen," said he. "His passing away has caused me to reflect upon the experiences that we have passed through together. Our lives in a great many instances run parallel. We became affiliated with the Church under similar conditions and our travels from the old land to America were very much under the same kind of circumstances. Brother Low arrived in the Valley a few years before I did. It was at Smithfield, Cache County, Utah, where I first met with him. We arrived in Alberta the same year. In all my acquaintance with him I have found him to be one of God's noblest and best servants. His loss is irreparable.

able for it will be a difficult thing to find another quite so proficient in every respect as Brother Low

the blessed atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ we shall meet again. Through his faithfulness he will come forth in the morning of the first resurrection to gain everlasting blessings. We know that Christ is risen from the dead and that He has become the first fruits of them that die. This places in us a grand and glorious hope of a resurrection notwithstanding the dissolution of the body or the departure of the spirit. I wish to leave an impression upon those who are assembled here. Brother Low was the same age as myself, and we both have large families. We should be prepared that we may be the lawful heirs and rightful claimants of the blessings promised to the faithful. We should not allow our opportunities to pass. Let us set a good example daily in our homes and in our business dealings. God will bless our departed brother for his honesty and integrity. He has been firm and true to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. His character will live and his works will follow after him. What a blessing it is when we see his children perpetuating his good works. What a blessing it is to note the intellectuality of his offspring. We cannot help but shed a tear or two for the loss of such a good man—so noble and so true. He has lived a life of good works. He has been subject to the temptations of the world but he has brought his stubborn spirit into subjection to the will of the Father and the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a pleasure to know and to testify of his virtue and honesty."

Elder Martin Woolf spoke for a few moments. He said that he had known Brother Sylvester Low ever since he had been a child. He had never known anyone to speak of him other than a most honorable, honest, straightforward, good man. His integrity in the Church and his fidelity to the Gospel could never be questioned. (Continued on back page)