

**A SERMON ON OCCASION OF THE
DEATH OF THOMAS W. BLATCHFORD,
M.D. DELIVERED IN THE SECOND STREET
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TROY, ON
SUNDAY MORNING, JAN. 28, 1866**

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D. KENNEDY

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A

SERMON

ON OCCASION OF THE DEATH OF

THOMAS W. BLATCHFORD, M. D.,

DELIVERED IN THE
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SECOND STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TROY,

ON SUNDAY MORNING, JAN. 28, 1866.

BY D. KENNEDY, D. D.

TROY, N. Y.:

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1866.



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REV. D. KENNEDY, D. D.,

Dear Sir:—The undersigned, members of your Session, having been deeply interested in your sermon delivered last Sabbath morning, on the death of our late lamented brother, DR. BLATCHFORD, so long and so actively associated with us in the Session, and believing that its publication would be gratifying to his many friends, and the means of doing much good in the community, respectfully ask a copy for publication.

A. READ,	J. C. SPENCER,
GEO. VAIL,	P. M. CORBIN,
R. DAVIDSON,	W. H. SHERMAN,
R. H. McCLELLAN.	

TROY, JANUARY 29, 1866.

DEAR BRETHREN:—

Willing to do whatever may contribute to perpetuate the memory of our late beloved associate — Doctor Blatchford, I cheerfully comply with your request.

I am, Dear Brethren,
Sincerely yours,

D. KENNEDY.

TROY, February 10, 1866.

To A. READ, GEO. VAIL, and others.

SERMON.

DANIEL XII: XIII.

BUT GO THOU THY WAY TILL THE END BE: FOR THOU SHALT REST; AND
STAND IN THY LOT AT THE END OF THE DAYS.

Eminence in religious attainment is limited to no peculiar rank or condition in life. And though it be true that "not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called," still we know that some such have been found, in every period of the church, adorning the doctrine of God their Saviour, by holy lives; and in humble piety, devoting wealth, talent and influence to the service of the Most High. Their excellence has been confessed by all, as their christian virtues have shone with a lustre proportioned to the distinction they have achieved.

Among the names thus distinguished in the annals of the church, by the union of worldly honor and heavenly wisdom, that of the prophet Daniel occupies a prominent place.

During the period of youth, in the vigor of manhood, and in the decline of life, we find him unreservedly dedicated, in body, soul, and spirit, to the service of his Creator and Redeemer. Occupying the dizzy height of worldly prosperity, he maintained his integrity amid the varied circumstances of danger and temptation that surrounded him. As Prime Minister of the mighty empire of Babylon, and amid the fascinations of a heathen court, he continued faithful to his religious convictions, unbiased in the purity of his motives, and uncontaminated in the excellence of his character.

As the representative of a despised people whose religion was repugnant to the tastes and sentiments of the king and his courtiers, and whose God was rejected and blasphemed by them, he still remained true to covenant prerogatives and duties while walking amid temples and shrines fragrant with the incense of idolatrous worship. And when jealousy and envy had succeeded in submitting to him the alternative of renouncing the religion of his fathers or suffering a cruel death, he nobly preferred the latter, and but for a signal interposition of Providence, he would have died a martyr as he had lived a saint.

After a long period of faithful service to successive Monarchs of Babylon, and to the "King of Kings," the time had at length come when his earthly sojourn was to terminate. He had finished the duties of his prophetic office, and the same angel that had spoken to him in the last vision which broke upon his enraptured spirit, now announces a formal release from his work, and assures him of the ample reward that should crown his fidelity in the labour to which he had been called: "Go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest; and stand in thy lot at the end of the days."

The passage before us suggests several lessons of instruction which I deem appropriate to the present occasion. The prominent points to which I design to call your attention, are:

The Servant of God in his work;

The Servant of God released;

The Servant of God rewarded.

I. The servant of God in his work.

Under the Divine government every man sustains a relation of responsibility, and has a special mission to accomplish. This constitutes him a servant of the Most High. This