
THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1881.

THE SITUATION IN THE LAST DAYS.

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No one can consistently deny that the second and glorious advent of the Messiah must and will take place according to the plain declarations of Scripture. Neither can any thinking person ignore the fact that the world, including the religious portion called "Christian," is entirely unprepared for such an important event, with all its fearful consequences to the ungodly. Again, it is a thoroughly demonstrated fact that the various sects of Christendom, whether Protestant or Catholic, have hitherto completely failed to effect, either in their individual or collective membership, anything like the necessary Godly preparation which the Scriptures indicate will exist prior to His coming, and that of necessity something must certainly transpire to bring about this desired condition. It is also evident that in the very nature of divine things, this work of preparation must be originated and carried on under divine teaching and inspiration. Another conclusion at once arises,—that such teaching, to be superior and more effective than that already proved insufficient, must be obtained by means of revelation. It then follows that to make the communication complete and intelligible, such revelation must be imparted by the Supreme Being in the Heavens to some finite being on the earth. In order to form proper ideas as to how such an event would be likely to occur in our day, we have to consider the nature of the Deity, and of his former dispensations of Divine favor. We then refer to the accounts given in the Sacred Word, and we find that in former days, when he desired to warn or teach his people, he selected certain men, called them by revelation from Heaven, and having commissioned them to proclaim his revealed word, sent them forth to deliver the message to the people. These he called Prophets. Sometimes he selected one only, at other times he chose several, who contemporaneously warned the various nations and peoples of the earth concerning important coming events. For proof of this method we have but to introduce the case of Noah, who warned the ante-deluvians of the coming deluge. The revelation for the entire world of mankind, informing them of the approach of that dire event, was given to one man,—Noah, and by him communicated to the people. God held them responsible for the acceptance or rejection of his lone testimony. They did not believe his words, they rejected his message, but the multitude of their unbelief and opposition did not prevent the fulfillment of his inspired prediction. "The floods came and destroyed them,"

and but seven out of the whole population were saved with the Prophet in the Ark. Doubtless the people had said as they do to-day, "false prophets," "delusion," and "imposture." Some perhaps thought he was deceived, that it was an optical or mental illusion, that his mind was affected by an hallucination, and consequently his message not to be received or heeded. Others perhaps felt equally convinced that he was dishonest in his statements, that he desired to become a prominent and popular leader, that he was crafty and actuated by sinister motives of self-aggrandizement; and thus Satan beguiled them into rejecting his testimony. But neither of these grounds of rejection was deemed any justification by the Lord of Hosts. The word of God through his Prophet was before them, and they must consider it on its merits,—prayerfully, humbly and righteously. "If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God," for "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." This they did not do, and they were destroyed.

Then we find the Jews were warned of the Babylonish captivity some years before it transpired, by persons who claimed to be "prophets sent of God." Isaiah, Jeremiah and others were selected, called by direct revelation, and sent to raise the warning voice among them. And we learn that false prophets arose also; how then were the people to tell the difference? The true prophets commanded them to repent, and seek the Lord; the false prophets told them they should have peace and not be carried away, lulling them into a fancied security. Hence the latter became popular, while the former were hated, despised and rejected. The Savior gives us a key in this regard recorded in Luke vi, 26, "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets." He also says, "Blessed are ye when all men shall speak evil of you, falsely, for my name's sake, for so they did of the prophets which were before you." Now these facts, keys and teachings are before the world to-day. Will they profit by the lessons of the past, and be wise? Or will they follow preceding generations in the wilful neglect of sacred things, and like them be condemned?

In accordance with the mercy and wisdom of God, a Prophet was called in 1820, by direct revelation, and in due time was sent forth to call people to repentance, and to lay the foundation of that kingdom which had been predicted by ancient prophets. To organize the Church of the Savior in righteousness, that a people might be prepared for the coming of the Lord. He received the authority to preach as did Noah, to baptize as did John the Baptist, and to lay on hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost as did Peter and the ancient Apostles; the gifts and blessings of the Gospel followed his administrations among the honest-in-heart; a people—the result of his ministry, whose thrifty industry and fortitude in trial, are as marked as the heroism of any ancient people, are gathering together in the west as also predicted; and the righteous laws and precepts of the Savior are developing among them their consequent virtues and other grateful results. Joseph Smith, a young man of noble sentiment and high-born principles, was that Prophet. We testify to the world at large as ministers of the Gospel revealed to that Prophet, that it is verily true, and that notwithstanding his name was "cast out as evil," and that those he ordained have been "evil spoken of, falsely, for Christ's sake," and that the Saints are "hated of all nations," as a

“sign of the end,” they possess the truth of the Living God,—the means of eternal salvation. And we warn all men everywhere to repent and turn unto God; we invite them to read the principles we teach, and which are revealed from Heaven, to attend our meetings, to inquire of our Elders who are laboring without salary in their midst, to compare our doctrines with the Scriptures, and we implore them for their own sakes, not to reject these things in this the last dispensation of the Almighty. And with Paul, the Apostle, we say to the Gentile world who are inclined to haughtiness and pride, “Be not high minded, but fear, for if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee!”

FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY.—When the Elders abroad have from time to time been led to speak of coming troubles on the nations, and in connection with these things have mentioned earthquakes, some “wiseacres” repudiated the possibility of such phenomena in England, owing to the subterranean workings so numerous in this country. We distinctly remember one conversation of this kind which took place some months ago in the town of Nottingham, when a gentleman stated that predictions on this subject were unlikely of fulfillment in this country, owing to the deep and extensive excavations for mining purposes, which released all elements tending to produce such a disaster. But we find in the *Liverpool Echo* of Tuesday last, the following statement of a severe shock of earthquake which occurred in Nottinghamshire on Friday the 26th ult., right in an extensive mining district:

EARTHQUAKE IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.—From reports which reached Nottingham yesterday, it is evident that an unusual severe shock of earthquake was experienced in the mining district of Teversal, in the county, on Friday last. In this vicinity are several large coal mines belonging to the Stanton Ironworks Company, and in one of the pits the miners were so alarmed by the shock, which occurred shortly before noon, that, fearing an explosion had occurred in the mine, they rushed to the mouth of the pit. In the colliery office the clerks experienced the shock, and Mrs. Clarke, wife of the managing director of the company, hearing the rumbling noise by which it was accompanied, imagined that damage had been done to the roof of the house by the high wind which prevailed. At the Pear Tree Inn, Fackley, several bricks were removed from the chimney-piece, and a similar result was observed at a house in Teversal. Mr. Turner, station-master in the latter place, states that his office received a violent shock. Mr. F. Round, of Teversal, who was sitting in his house at the time, was thrown from his seat by the shock, and a quantity of plaster was thrown from the ceiling. No explosion took place in the mines at the time, and from the fact of the upheaval of the floor of one of the pits, it is clear the disturbance must have originated below the workings, some of which are 430 yards deep. Considerable excitement and alarm prevailed in the district at the time, but the shock, which traveled in a north-westerly direction, seems to have been confined to a somewhat narrow course.

The above report shows how groundless is the security of worldly-minded people, who, leaning upon false conclusions, reject the Gospel message and the warnings of God’s servants, given by inspiration. No loss of life is reported from the late shock, but may it not be a voice of warning to the people of this land, that greater things are in store; and while the Lord in his abundant mercy has spared the inhabitants of that region for wise pur-