

If the solar system is so organized that each member affects the others and the beings who inhabit them, are there not other systems to which this is subordinate? While the planets with their moons revolve around the sun, does not the whole system revolve around greater luminaries and move through space as a family of worlds, coming into other conditions and under other influences with the procession of the ages? And may not these stronger stellar powers counteract the alleged forces of the planets and derange the influences they are supposed to exercise upon each other? It will not do to depend on the theories of so-called astral science, whether ancient or modern, even if they contain germs of truth, while the order of the universe is so imperfectly comprehended by the best astronomers and by the star-gazers whom they treat with derision.

Joseph Smith, the seer of this century, like Enoch and Abraham of old, was permitted by the Great Architect of the heavens to gaze upon the worlds on high and learn something of their relations as to time, magnitude and space. To him was also revealed many things concerning coming events, some of which have already happened and others are now occurring. The calamities of the times were foreshadowed to him, and those manifestations harmonized with those of prophetic minds of old. The Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants abound in warnings of these disasters. Both of these books came to us through him, but their inspiration flowed from the same source and through the same channel as the Divine light and knowledge revealed to the ancients.

In the preface to the Covenants and Commandments, the troubles of the latter times are predicted and the cause is explained in the fact that "the anger of the Lord is kindled," and the Lord, "knowing the calamity which should come upon the inhabitants of the earth, called upon His servant Joseph Smith," and revealed to him the Book of Mormon and the commandments afterwards given to him for the world, that all people might be warned of judgments to come. In sending out the Elders for this purpose the Lord said, December 27th, 1832:

"And after your testimony cometh wrath and indignation upon the people;

For after your testimony cometh the testimony of earthquakes, that shall cause groanings in the midst

of her, and men shall fall upon the ground, and shall not be able to stand.

And also cometh the testimony of the voice of thunders, and the voice of lightnings, and the voice of tempests, and the voice of the waves of the sea, heaving themselves beyond their bounds.

And all things shall be in commotion; and surely, men's hearts shall fail them; for fear shall come upon all people."—(Doctrine and Covenants, sec. lxxxviii, v. 88—91.)

In September of the same year He said:

"For I the Almighty, have laid my hands upon the nations, to scourge them for their wickedness.

And plagues shall go forth, and they shall not be taken from the earth until I have completed my work, which shall be cut short in righteousness."—(Ibid, sec. lxxxiv, v. 96—7.)

Here is another reference to the calamities of the period:

"How oft have I called upon you by the mouth of my servants, and by the ministering of angels, and by mine own voice, and by the voice of thunders, and by the voice of lightnings, and by the voice of tempests, and by the voice of earthquakes, and great hail-storms, and by the voice of famines and pestilences of every kind, and by the great sound of a trumpet, and by the voice of judgment, and by the voice of mercy all the day long, and by the voice of glory and honor, and the riches of eternal life, and would have saved you with an everlasting salvation, but ye would not?" (Sec. xliii v. 25.)

In the revelation concerning the civil war, given Dec. 25, 1832, and which has been partly fulfilled, we are told:

"And thus, with the sword, and by bloodshed, the inhabitants of the earth shall mourn; and with famine and plague, and earthquakes, and the thunder of heaven, and the fierce and vivid lightnings also, shall the inhabitants of the earth be made to feel the wrath and indignation and chastening hand of an Almighty God, until the consumption decreed, hath made a full end of all nations." (Sec. lxxxvii v. 6.)

The Book of Mormon is very plain in predictions concerning the latter-day calamities and in giving the reasons for their infliction. Mormon, himself, describes the situation of the world when the book should come forth from the dust, in this wise:

"And it shall come in a day when the blood of saints shall cry unto the Lord, because of secret combinations and the works of darkness;

Yea, it shall come in a day when the power of God shall be denied, and churches become defiled, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts; yea, even in a day when leaders of churches, and teachers, in the pride of their hearts,

even to the envying of them who belong to their churches;

Yea, it shall come in a day when there shall be heard of fires, and tempests, and vapor of smoke in foreign lands;

And there shall also be heard of wars, rumors of wars, and earthquakes in divers places;

Yea, it shall come in a day when there shall be great pollutions upon the face of the earth; there shall be murders, and robbing, and lying, and deceivings, and whoredoms, and all manner of abominations; when there shall be many who will say, do this, or do that, and it mattereth not, for the Lord will uphold such at the last day. But wo unto such, for they are in the gall of bitterness, and in the bonds of iniquity." (Chap. viii, v. 27—31.)

Nephi prophesied as follows:

"But behold, in the last days, or in the days of the Gentiles; yea, behold, all the nations of the Gentiles, and also the Jews, both those who shall come upon this land, and those who shall be upon other lands; yea, upon all the lands of the earth; behold they will be drunken with iniquity and all manner of abominations.

"And when that day shall come, they shall be visited of the Lord of Hosts, with thunder, and with earthquakes, and with a great noise, and with storm, and with tempest, and with the flame of devouring fire." (11 Nephi, chap. xxvii, v. 1, 2.)

"And they that kill the prophets, and the saints, the depths of the earth shall swallow them up, saith the Lord of Hosts; and mountains shall carry them away, and buildings shall fall upon them, and crush them to pieces and grind them to powder;

And they shall be visited with thunders, and lightnings, and earthquakes, and all manner of destructions, for the fire of the anger of the Lord shall be kindled against them, and they shall be as stubble, and the day that cometh shall consume them, saith the Lord of Hosts." (Chap. xxvi, v. 5, 6.)

Many other quotations might be given, showing that these troubles have been foretold, and that the reason for them is the wickedness of mankind and their rejection of the message sent from God to the generation. This may not explain the matter in such sequence of cause and effect as will satisfy minds that claim to be "scientific." The idea that the Supreme Being takes any practical part in the affairs of men, they repudiate with lofty scorn. Some time it will dawn upon them that The Creator is an important factor in all scientific problems, and that casting him out confuses all great questions concerning the universe and its inhabitants.

But is it not reasonable to believe that the material elements in nature are affected by the actions and feelings and sentiments of human be-